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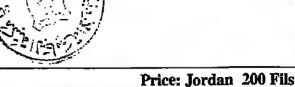
AND TO

#### Foreign Ministry identifies released prisoners

AMMAN (Petra) -- The Foreign Ministry on Friday released the names of the eight Jordanian prisoners Kuwait pardoned last week. The names of these prisoners are: Abdul Rahman Sa'd Al Husseini, Imad Mahmoud Nimer, Mamoun Mahmoud Masoud, Imad Sami Thari, Ahmad Eid Mustafa, Osama Suheil Abdullah Al Hassan, Mamoud Omar Saleh and Hamdeh Asa'd Yunes. Also Friday, Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatih sent a cable of congratulations to Kuwaiti Emir Jaher Al Ahmad Al Sahah on Kuwait's national day. Khatib thanked the Kuwaiti emir and government for pardoning the prisoners.



AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1999, DHUL QADAH 11, 1419



#### Three Palestinian women killed by van in Israel

Volume 24

BEERSHEVA (AFP) -Three Palestinian women from the Gaza Strip were struck and killed by an Îsraeli driver early Thursday as they crossed a road in southern Israel, police said. The three women were struck by a van after they got off a bus and tried to cross a highway in the western Negev region near the Gaza Strip, a police spokesman said. The Israeli driver was slightly hurt and was questioned by police. According to a preliminary investigation, the driver failed to see the three women due to the early morning darkness and a light fog in the area, police

#### Czech, Polish leaders ratify NATO membership

PRAGUE (R) - Czech President Vaclay Havel and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, in a live television link-up broadcast in both countries, gave final approval on Friday to the former Soviet bloc allies joining NATO. But, in an embarrassment for the Czechs, a protester disrupted the solemn event, blowing a whistle while holding up a hurning card bearing the NATO symbol. He was quickly hustled out of Prague castle's throne room where Havel was delivering a brief speech. Just before the protest, the two leaders simultaneously signed into law the decisions to join the alliance which had previously been taken by their padiaments. Havel hailed the document as "of truly historic significance."

#### Police find IRA explosives

BELFAST (AP) - Police searching for IRA arms dumps on Friday found several mortar tubes, explosives and bombmaking equipment in both parts of Ireland, Northern Ireland police uncovered a dump containing a heavy mortar with shells and about 100 kilogrammes of home-made explosives, plus timers and power units used to trigger bombs, just off the main Belfast-Londonderry highway near the predominantly Catholic town of Dungiven. And just across the border in the Irish Republic, police found several home-made barrels - typically used to launch shells from the backs of trucks at Brirish military installations — hidden in an isolated farm-

#### New mad cow case in Switzerland

house in county Cavan.

APPENZELL (AFP) - A new case of "mad cow" disease was reported in central Switzerland, bringing to four the number of cases reported this year, cantonal veterinary services said Friday. Fourteen new cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) were counted last year in Switzerland. BSE has been linked to a fatal brain condition in humans.

#### Family shot to death in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — A family of six, including two children, was shot to death while asleep at their home in a Buenos Aires suburb, police said Friday. Two other family members were wounded during the attack at Lomas de Zamora, south of the Argentine capital. Elva Suarez, 39, a Unuquayan citizen, went to a hospital early Friday with a bullet wound in her leg. She told police that three men whom she did not know had kicked down the door of her house at dawn and started fir-

## Number 7081

# Israeli prime minister arrives for talks with King on Sunday

#### Government awaits clarification of Netanyahu's remarks

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN - Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu will arrive in Aruman tomorrow for talks with His Majesty King Abdullah, but statements by the Israeli premier just ahead of his visit — his first to the country since King Hussein's funeral — already may have thrown a wet blanket on the

Netanyahu, speaking to stu-dents at the right-wing Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv on Thursday, said Jordan was the only state in the region to back Iraqi President Saddam Hus-sein during the 1990-91 Gulf War, when Iraq rained down 39 missiles on Israel, mostly in the Tel Aviv area.

Agence France Presse quoted Netanyahu as saying. "In 1991, who joined [Saddam] first? It was King Hussein of Jordan - the knight of peace,'

"Why did he do that? Because Iraq was strong. And Iraq in 1991 was a little grain of sand compared to the Iraq equipped with nuclear weapons, and this puts a threat on our eastern border."

cials said on Friday.

activists.

It was the third execution of a

policeman authorised by Pales-

tinian National Authority

(PNA) President Yasser Arafat

in six months, and the action

drew sharp protests from

Palestinian human rights

Colonel Ahmad Atyah Abu

Mustafa, 48, was arrested

Wednesday after the boy from

the southern Gaza town of

Khan Yunis identified him as

the man who kidnapped and

raped him five days earlier.

Abu Mustafa, who served in

police officials told AFP.

the possibility that King Abdullah or his successor could abandon the historic Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed in 1994 in favour of an alliance with Iraq.

We will find ourselves with an Iraqi threat on the Jordanian border," Netanyahu was quoted as saying.

The premier took the scenario one step further, raising the spectre of a hostile Jordanian-Iraqi alliance with the Palestinians in the West Bank that would result in what Netanyahu described as "Iraqi continuity from the Tel Aviv suburbs to Baghdad."

Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib yesterday said Jordan was seeking clarification from the Israeli prime minister's office and was waiting to see the official text of the speech. "We find these statements

aired by the media about Jordan strange in principle," Khatib said. "In light of contradiction among [published] reports, the government is waiting for further clarification and the official transcript of Netanyahu's statement in order to determine our posi-

on our eastern border."

Officials yesterday speaking on condition of anonymity

GAZA CITY (AFP) - A the border guard corps, denied the raped child, officials said.

Palestinian firing squad executed a police colonel overnight

But a military court martial

Centre for Human Rights,

just hours after he was convict- held late Thursday convicted which initially made the rape

ed and condemned to death for the officer and sentenced him case public, swiftly con-raping a six-year-old boy, offi-to 15 years in prison for the demned Abu Mustafa's light-

rape itself and handed down

the death penalty for "gravely

Hundreds of Khan Yunis res-

idents had burned tyres and

blocked roads in the town

Wednesday and Thursday in

protest over the rape and to

press demands for Abu

The officer was killed by a

firing squad around midnight

in the courtvard of the Gaza

The execution was attended

by several PNA officials and

members of the Legislative

Council as well as relatives of

City police headquarters.

disturbing public order."

Mustafa's execution.

PNA policeman executed hours after conviction

said that the atmosphere of official meetings — also to be attended by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Khatib and his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon — will depend on Israel's further clarification of

Netanyahu's statements. One official described the statements as "nasty and, unless they can be put into context, unacceptable to us."

Netanyahu's words seemed to contrast the spirit of those spoken by King Abdullah last week during a meeting with visiting leaders of American Jewish organisations. During the meeting, the King said he considered himself "a brother of Israel" and was eager to see

hilateral ties grow stronger.

Malcolm Hoenlein, vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, said the King indicated he was "looking forward to working with Netanyahu" and spoke warmly of Jordan's ties to Israel, according to a report carried in the New York Times.

Netanyahu's visit will be his first with King Abdullah, except for a brief encounter with the Monarch at King

Hussein's funeral. A senior official told the Jor-

The independent Palestinian

ning trial and execution and

demanded that capital punish-

about the execution of this offi-

cer and fear that capital punish-

ment could become a routine

method adopted by the PNA,"

the centre said in a written

the "rushed and unfair" trial

which it said did not permit

Abu Mustafa to prepare a

effective preventive punish-

ments than execution," it said.

"We believe there are more

The group also denounced

"We are deeply concerned

ment be outlawed.

statement

proper defence.

dan Times that talks are likely to focus on the lack of progress in implementing the Wye River agreement, signed in Washington last October between Israel and the Palestinians, and brokered at the eleventh hour by King Hus-

"Officials will be discussing the importance to Jordan of seeing serious progress in the implementation of those agreements," the official said.

During a visit of Israeli offi-cials to Jordan in November, HRH Prince Hassan Tarawneh and Sharon touched on sticky final status issues, with Jordan insisting that it be kept abreast of all Palestinian-Israeli final status discussions and emphasising that the Kingdom's strategic interests figure in any permanent peace deal reached.

The official source said, however, that "there will be no room for detailed discussion" on final status issues this time around owing to Israel's failure to fully implement the Wye deal and to Israel's May elections, which have further hamstrung any progress in the peace process.

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinian military courts

have handed down 24 death

sentences since the autonomy

government was created in

1994, 18 of them against mem-

Dets of the various Palestinian

security services, according to

Bassem Eid, a human rights

Arafat has only signed the

death warrants against two of

the condemned — brothers

who worked in a Palestinian

security unit and murdered two

other men in a clan feud last

The two victims were mem-

movement and their murder

activist.

be executed.



Lehanese students Friday wave their national flag inside the southern village of Arnoun. About 2,000 Lebanese students stormed through the barbed wire barricades into Arnoun, the stranded village which Israel last week incorporated into the zone its troops occupy in south Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Civilians storm barricades at occupied Lebanese village

Agencies

CIVILIANS ACTED directly against Israel's occupation of south Lebanon for the first time in years Friday, storming through barbed-wire barricades into Amoun, the stranded village which Israel cor-doned off last week.

Beirut university students led the 2,000 villagers and other protesters, many of them draped in Lebanese flags and chanting patriotic songs, who ignored the likely presence of a minefield and warning shots

fired by the Israeli army.
"This is our land. We shall remain here and we call on all Lebanese students to come to engineering student from the American University

"We have erected a tent and we are bringing in hlankets," said Diab, who was sitting around one of two large fires lit at nightfall to fend off the cold mountain weather in Amoun. "Lebanon holds Israel responsible for any harm

bers of Arafat's Fatch political sparked a wave of street protests by relatives and Fateh militants demanding the killers the International Truce Moni-

inflicted on Lebanese civilians in Amoun," President Emile Lahoud was quoted as saying

hy the national news agency. Laboud had asked Lebanon's representative to toring Committee to relay the warning through the president of the panel, American Richard Erdmann.

Later Friday, Israel agreed to remove barbed-wire barricades around Amoun, a Lebanese official told AFP. The decision was relayed to

Lebanon's representative to the International Truce Monitoring Committee, Colonel Maher Tufaili, through the president Erdmann, he said. Erdmann-told Tufaili that Israel has agreed to "remove

the barbed wire and refrain from putting it back up," he The Israeli delegate to the

truce committee asked Erdmann to request the Lebanese authorities to "stop the gatherings and disturbances" in Amoun, he said.

But Tufaili refused such conditions, asserting that "Lebanon rejects any promise or guarantee which could harm the resistance activities."

Prime Minister Salim Hoss hailed the "dignified march which defied the Israeli siege of Amoun with bare hands."

This was a great heroic act of defence for a legitimate national right and an expression of steadfastness by the nation. We bow before this majestic act and we bless its

heroes," Hoss told reponers. The state-run Tele-Liban sta-

tion showed footage of the "student revolt" which was greeted with bugs. kisses and dancing by the 100 residents who had stayed behind in Amoun, most of them women, children and the elderly.

The television, which broadcast patriotic songs throughout the day calling for the liberation of the south, also showed students ripping down the barbed wire and waving Lebanese flags jubilantly.
The group was joined by

people from nearby villages who arrived in a procession led by parliamentarians from the Shifte Muslim Amal Movement, which has launched occasional anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

From atop mosques' minarets, Shiite dignitaries were calling for everyone to go to Amoun to support the protesters "who broke the wall of fear and the siege imposed by the Israelis" there. Israeli soldiers and troops

from the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) laid barbed wire around Amoun on Feb. 17, preventing entry or exit from the village except through the Israeli-occupied

## Reformers well-placed amid large turnout in Iranian elections

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran's first-ever municipal elections drew a large turnout across the capital Friday, particularly among young people, leaving supporters of reformist President Mohammad Khatami well-placed in their key battle with hardline opponents. Already substantial in the

morning, the turnout grew even heavier in the afternoon at voting stations visited by AFP, prompting the authorities to extend polling by several hours in Tehran and other major cities.

In the first official indication of the level of participation. Interior Minister Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari said it had been "heavy" although he gave no figures.

Young people, who have the vote here from age 15 and helped sweep Khatami to his shock election victory in 1997. were particularly in evidence at the polling stations.

Many said they had voted for former Vice President Abdullah Nouri and his main list of reformist candidates in the capital.

"The very fact that the conservatives tried to disqualify him right up to the last minute was what persuaded me to go and vote for him," said one young voter outside a polling



A little girl waits for her mother to vote as other women look at a list of candidates Friday in a polling station in central Tehran (AP photo)

station in the plush north of the

An 11th-bour bid hy the conservative-dominated election supervision council to bar a dozen reformers including Nouri from standing in the capital was only resolved by the intervention of the president less than 24 hours before

polls opened. In working class districts as well, large numbers of women and young people turned out to vote, in Eslamshahr, a poor dormitory town to the south of

the capital, residents estimated that three-quarters of the votes were going to reformers.

For the first time four candidates from the banned but tolerated liberal opposition were standing for election in the capital on a joint list with other moderates.

Freedom Movement of Iran leader Ibrahim Yazdi told BBC Radio he hoped the vote would lead to official recogni-

(Continued on page 2)

## Injured embassy employee transferred to Israel

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN - An Israeli embassy staff member who was seriously injured in an accidental shooting Wednesday was taken to Israel yesterday for further treatment, a spokesman for the Amman mission said.

Embassy press attaché Rocy Gilad said Sork Gefen, 24, was in "stable" condition following

surgery at the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery to remove a bullet from his chest.

"He did not shoot himself, and the incident was accidental," Gilad said, declining to

give further information. Jordanian security officials said Gefen, an embassy security guard, was shot once in the chest by one of his colleagues on the embassy's premises in

the Al Rabia neighbourhood.

"We do not know how it happened, nor who shot him. but there was a delay in bringing him to the hospital," an official told the Jordan Times.

The embassy has withheld the identity of the employee. Hospital Director Daoud Hanania told reporters following the surgery Wednesday that the bullet had settled in the right side of Gefen's chest,

close to his heart.

"The bullet ruptured one of the blood arteries near the heart and settled near the patient's spine. Blood circulation to the brain was cut for 40 minutes following the inci-

dent," Hanania said.

Hanania described Gefen's post-surgery condition as "very serious," adding that he may have suffered "serious brain damage."

## U.S. rights report notes Mideast abuses, progress

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Human rights remain under constant threat in the Middle East and parts of Africa, but the U.S. State Department noted some progress in its annual rights report released here Fri-

day.
The report for 1998 registered improvements in human rights in Egypt, Iran and Syria as well as in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. It also noted improvements in

Algeria but said Iraq and Sudan were among perpetrators of the worst kinds of basic human nights violations. It specifically castigated Iraqi

leader Saddarn Hussein for pursuing a brutal campaign of repression against political opponents and Shiite Muslims.

The report said Saddam had executed more than 3,000 people since 1997, 500 of them in the last three months of 1998.

His regime "continued its brutal campaign of executing perceived political opponents and leaders in the Shia religious community," it said.

Sudan was accused of numerous and repeated abuses stemming from Khartoum's brutal efforts to quash religious and political dissent. The government's human

rights record remained extremely poor, and it continued to commit numerous, serious abuses," said the report, referring to "extrajudicial execution, disappearances, torture, beatings, harassment and arbitrary arrest and detention."

In Algeria, respect for human rights remained weak, and the report spoke of litany of abuses by both sides in the conflict between government forces and Islamist insurgents.

The government's human rights record "remained poor, although there were improvements in some areas," the report

noted. Iran's record also remained poor and human rights were subject to "systematic abuses."

However, the report also picked up on "some improvements in a few areas," particularly that of freedom of expression, although even this step forward had been halted at year-

Fundamental human rights were denied to Syrians in 1998, the report said, by a political system that "places virtual absolute authority in the hands

of President Hafez Assad." However progress was registered, and the report noted that there were no political killings and no confirmed reports of politically motivated disappear-

In Egypt, human rights abuses were rife, the report noted, and democracy was restricted by the ruling party's iron grip on

"The government continued to commit numerous and serious human rights abuses, although its record improved somewhat over the previous year," the report said.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, improvements have been noted although both Israel and the Palestinian National Authority were blamed for continued abuses, with both sides

resorting to torture. [The full text of the report is available on the Internet at http://www.state.gov]

# Turk prosecutor urges Kurd party election ban

Turkey's attorney general asked the constitutional court on Thursday to bar the main legal Kurdish Party from April elections that may he overshadowed hy the prosecution of rebel

leader Abdullah Ocalan.
The call from Vural Savas came amid reports that Ocalan had linked the People's Democracy Party (Hadep) to his Kurdish Lahour Party (PKK) guerrilla group.

"I submit to your consideration that Hadep should he prevented from taking part in the elections to he held on April 18." Savas said in a petition to the court. "We are receiving serious infor-mation that PKK militants have hegun threatening our citizens in the southeast, saying 'lf you do not vote for Hadep. we will hurn your vil-lages down and kill all of

Acting Hadep Chair-man Osman Ozcelik said he expected the court to reject the appeal as there was no concrete evidence. He said the prosecutor's move was a part of a wider crackdown on

Hadep, already under investigation for ties to the PKK, faces an outright ban in a constitutional court case that is not likely to finish hefore the elections.

The mass circulation daily Sabah quoted Ocalan, spirited out of Kenya on Feb.15 and now under interrogation in Turkey, as acknowledging the charges of links hetween the Kur-dish political party and his rebels were true.

Hadep, which advocates a negotiated solution to Turkey's Kurdish conflict, denies the allegations.

More than 29,000 people have been killed in 14 years of fighting hetween Turkish troops and Ocalan's rebels, who are seeking Kurdish self-

An influential Turkish hody issued support for diplomatic campaign to shame Greece for helping the PKK leader, who had hid in the Greek embassy in before being Nairobi captured by Turkish special forces.

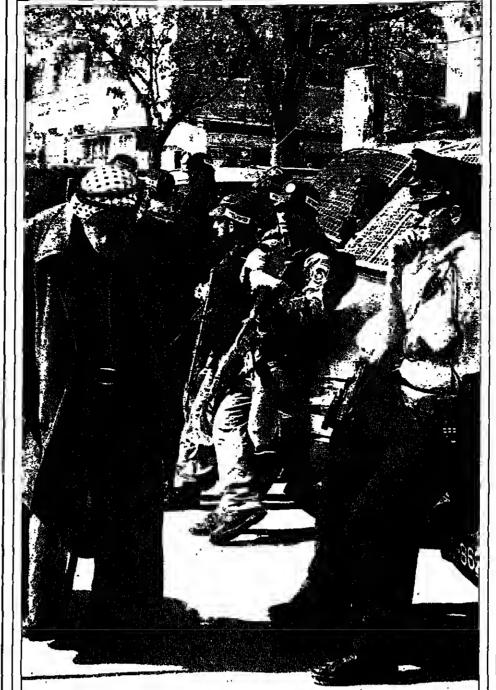
"It is essential that no

country or people give support to an organisation that through its actions leaves no doubt that it is a bloody terrorist organisation," said a statement by the military-dominated national security council.

Greece on Thursday evacuated three Ocalan aides from the Nairobi emhassy where they had been boled up since his capture.

Turkey's Western allies are watching the trial closely hut the national security council said concerns about fairness were misplaced.

The Human Rights Association said police had rounded up more than 3.000 people, apparently to prevent pro-Ocalan protests. In the last elections in 1995. Hadep failed to send any deputies to parliament despite doing well in the mainly Kurdish southeast. It garnered less than 10 per cent of votes nationally, failing to pass an electoral harrier used to prevent small parties from heing represented.



An elder Palestinian man walks past Israeli police on hand to secure a demonstration by Israeli Peace Now activists outside the Patriarch Tomb in Hebron Friday. The protesters called for Jewish settlers and the Israeli army to leave Hebron (AFP photo)

## Israeli prime minister arrives for talks with King on Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

"Officials will mostly discuss bilateral relations, particularly concerning water and economic cooperation," the official said. Jordan and Israel are particularly keen to bolster

economic relations. Both sides contend that economic prosperity in the Kingdom is a lynchpin of popular support for the peace process. In 1994, Amman hoped that the peace treaty and an ensuing bilateral trade agreement with the Jewish state would help offset some of the economic damage wreaked on Jordan in the wake of the Gulf War. However, bilateral economic ties have been slow to develop, with Jordanians resisting economic cooperation that they regard as a kind of leverage with Israel in helping the Palestinians gain their

Last year did see a substantial boost in bilateral trade — which jumped 30 per cent over 1997. Trade volume stood at \$42 million. Jordanian exports to Israel increased 25 per cent, according to statis-

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...News headlines

tics from the Israeli Customs Department, from \$19.9 million to \$25 mil-

Additionally. hoped that trade agreements between the Kingdom and the Palestinians, and Israel and the Palestinians, would allow trade between Jordan and the West Bank to flourish. But Jordanian exporters have contended that Israel has placed several obstacles to Jordanian exporters trying to reach West Bank markets. The Kingdom's exports to the Palestinian market in 1998 stood a \$23 million compared to Israel's \$2 billion.

"[Jordan] will certainly raise the issue of trade relations between Jordan and Palestine," one official said. "We want a clear political decision to lift all existing barriers to our

During last November's meeting, Minister of Trade and Industry Mohammad Saleh Hourani and his counterpart Natan Sharansky held parallel trade talks that resolved several hilateral trade issues and removed several non-tariff barriers to Jordan's trade

with the Palestinians. Some of the thorniest issues - standards and procedures testing, transport arrangements and Israeli security checks at the King Hussein Bridge still remain outstand-

Following King Hussein's funeral, Netanyahu told his cabinet that Israel had to think of "new and creative ways" to facilitate Jordan's economic devel-

A source from the Israeli trade ministry told the Jordan Times that be did not know whether Netanyahu would be arriving with specific proposals, but said that "Israel sees the strength of the Jordanian economy as a national pri-

"The prime minister has declared that we should in fact be seeking ways to encourage further economic cooperation both with Israel and the Palestinians and [the trade ministry] is working very hard

# Aid agency slams U.N. relief operation in Sudan

international aid agency says the United Nations has allowed thousands of tonnes of food meant for famine victims in south Sudan to be misappropriated at a cost of millions of dollars to donors.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said in a report issued on Friday that Operation Lifesortium of U.N. and non-governmental agencies — was "incapable of ensuring the respect for humanitarian principles that are supposed to

govern it."
"We feel that it is our responsibility to question the inconsistencies in the aid system put in place by the United Nations and parties to the con-

flict," the report says. "How long can humanitarian agencies continue to pour in tens of thousands of tonnes of food without being able to control where it goes and without ensuring that the aid actually saves those who really need it."

OLS was established 10 years ago after an agreement between the Sudan government, rebel movements in the southrand the United Nations.

Its mission was to provide feed aid to millions of people caught up in decades of fighting between the Islamist Khartoum government and seeking autonomy in the south. Over 1.5 million people

have been killed in the conflict or have died as a result of warrelated famine since 1983. Millions more have been displaced. MSF, which works both within and outside the OLS umbrella, said the U.N. reliance on the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA) to control food distribution in the south had resulted in massive diversion of food away from the needy.

In many cases the food had gone directly to fighters of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), it said. The SRRA is a branch of the

Sudan People's Liberation Movement - the political wing of the SPLA - and MSF said "to consider that the SRRA can act according to humanitarian principles is to ignore the true nature of this

OLS has to tread a careful line in all its Sudan operations. Despite operating in areas which have been in rebel hands for years, OLS must get approval from Khartoum for all activities in the south and the government frequently prohibits it from working in certain areas.

Aid agencies outside the OLS umbrella deal directly with the SPLA and SRRA for access and permission to operate in the south, and with Khartoum to operate in the

MSFs report deals mainly with a food crisis which lasted from March last year until the beginning of 1999 and became the biggest air relief operation in history.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to stage naval manoeuvres in Gulf

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's navy is to begin exercises soon in the Gulf, near an island also claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Friday, Navy spokesman Fariborz Fazel told IRNA that the 'Fateh (Victor)-77 manoeuvres would be launched on Saturday in an area stretching from the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the island of Abu Musa to Iran's port of Jask, outside the mouth of the Gulf. He said ships, submarines and fighter planes from a southern base would be deployed in the nine-day exercises.

#### 'Iraqi threats 'provocative and useless'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Arnr Musa denounced Iraq on Thursday for making "provocative" threats against its neighbours and said they would not lead to an improvement in the situation. "Iraq's threats against its neighbours are provocative and useless and cause anger among a number of countries," Musa told reporters. "Such threats can only have negative repercussions.

#### Namibian president flies to Libya

TUNIS (R) - Namibian President Sam Nujoma flew to Libya on Thursday night, the latest of a series of African officials to defy an air ban on flights to and from the north African country over the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. Libyan state television, monitored in Tunis, said on Friday that Nujorna, who flew on a Libyan aircraft, was welcomed upon arrival at the coastal airport of Sirte (450 km east of Tripoli) by one of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's lieutenants, Abu Bakr Jaber Yunes.

#### Khartoum is prepared to help stop Horn war

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government is keeping a wary eye on the border war between its neighbours to the east, Eritrea and Ethiopia, neither of which has friendly ties with Khartourn, SUNA reported Friday. Khartourn "is quite pre-pared to play any role it can for halting this war which will only add to the hundreds of thousands of Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees already in Sudan." Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told the news agency.

## Reformers well-placed in Iranian elections

(Continued from page 1)

"We are hoping that we will reach the point that the authorities, from the leftist factions, from the reformist factions or the rightist factions... acknowledge the legitimacy of the opposition parties.

"We haven't yet reached that point," be said.

Reformers had been hoping for a strong turnout from the nation's 40 million eligible voters, particularly women and young people who over-whelmingly supported Khata-mi in 1997.

Some 53,000 polling sta-tions were opened and a site was even established on the highway Tehran and its vast satellite town of Karaj to enable motorists to participate. Tehran, with almost 10 mil-

hon residents and 4,000 candidates, is the biggest prize in the election, followed by the four other big cities of Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tabriz - all with about 1,000 candidates.

Witnesses contacted in the provinces indicated that turnout there had varied from city to city. In Mashhad, polling was

heavy in the afternoon, witnesses told AFP, but in Isfahan it was only "average" and in Sanandaj, the capital of Iranian Kurdistan where there were disturbances earlier this

week following the detention of Turkish Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, it was

passed off "calmly and without incident" — some 140,000 policemen had been mobilised to prevent any disturbances during the voting.

polling — with some 200,000 seats on 33,000 municipal councils at stake - had been marred by violence and intense political wrangling as hardliners and reformers seek to consolidate local power bases for next year's parliamentary elections.

weapon fire riddled the Tehran offices of the executives of Construction Party, the main reformist group behind Khata-

vote in northern Tehran at Jamaran, the former residence of late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. reminding voters that the landmark municipal poll had been one of his main campaign promises before his 1997 election.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00 .....Agaba (add) (RJ)

07:10 ......Aqaba, Linz (add) (RJ)

12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:15 .....London (RJ)

12:15 .....Rome (RJ)

13:00 ......Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

13:50 ......Paris (RI)

20:00 ....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

20:15 .....Bombay (RJ)

21:25 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RI)

06:15 Damascus, London (BA)

06:30 ..... Lamaca (CY)

14:10 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

15:50 ......Vienna (OS)

02:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

05:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)

........ Milan (AZ)

..Dubai (EK) 🐙

...Beirut (ME)

...Cairo (MS)

.. Belgrade (JU)

....Lamaca (RJ)

.....Jeddah (RJ)

.........Beirut (RJ)

.....Cairo (RJ)

06:30 .....

Other Flights

14:45 .....

22:35

02:10 .....

POTRRW)

#### JORDAN TELEVISION JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR PROGRAMME TWO

19:35Doc Perspective
20:00 News in Arabic (Channel
2 links up with channel 1)
20:30 Programme on the late
His Majesty King Hussein
21:00 Islamic History in Jordan
21:30On the Banks of Jordan
22:00News in English
22:10 Doc National Geographic
23:00 News in Arabic (Channel
2 links up with channel 1)

#### PRAYER TIMES

Fajr
Fajr nrise) Dubu Dhuhr
Dhuht
'Asrl
Maghreb
'Asrl Maghreb

#### **CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590 Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366 Anglican Church 4624853/4624811. St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751. Amman International Church

German-speaking Evangelical

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295 Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

ter Day Saints Tel. 4654932 St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440 Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138 Church of Presentation, Swei-

Congregation Tel. 5688404

fieh Tel. 5920146 The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757 English-Language

Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190 Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679 The Baptist Church Tel.

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331 The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drop, skies cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance of rainfall in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be nurthwesterly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	05/15
Aqaba	11/21
Deserts	02/16
Jordan Valley	11/21
Yesterday's high tempo	eratures:

Amman 17 Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent. Aqaba 43 per cent. Following are the tempreatures

expected today in the following

Ajloun	03/11
Jerash	05/16
Um Qays	
Madaba	
Petra	05/15
Dead Sea	

### NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Bassam Karadsheh .....4389200 Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi \_\_\_\_4894788 Dr. Khalid M'addi .....5661144

Dr. Khalid Abdo ......4657129 Firas Pharmacy ......5661912 Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730

Mayadah Pharmacy ...5537004 Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh (02)250080 Fou'ad Pharmacy .(02)275360

Palestine Pharmacy..(05)983562

#### **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Res-
cue4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank4775121
Highway Police5343402
Traffic Police4896390
Public Security Dept4630321
Hotel Complaints5605800
Price Complaints5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 1897467
Amman Municipality Com-
plaints787111
Telephone Information (directo-
ry assistance)121
Overseas Calls0132
Central Amman Telephone

Abdali Tel. Repairs......5661101

JordanTelevision ......4773111

Water Authority ......5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Radio Jordan ......

## Dr. Samir Al Lawzi (09)989601

od Control Centre4637111
il Defence Department 5661111
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Brigade4617101
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e Complaints5661176
ar & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
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issistance)121
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Electric Power Co.... ....4636381 RJ Flight Information, 44-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport ...44-53200

#### HOSPITALS

The Arab Centre for Heart and Spe-
cial Surgery5921199
The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre5856856
Luzmila4630195
Khalidi Maternity4644281/6
Akileh Maternity4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity4642362
Malhas, J. Amman4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5607431
Jordan Hospital5607550
University Hospital5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3
Al-Bashir4775111/26
Army, Marka4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital5157100
Amal Hospital5607155
Al Amal Cancer Centre5353000
WINNER CHIRE CORRE "2222000

ZARQA	.:	
Zanga	Govl	Hospital
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Zarga	National	
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Ibn Sina	Hospiែៅ ((	99986731
Al Hikt	na Modern	Hospital
	(0	9)990990

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ZARQA	:	
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#### ....(02) 7102831, (02) 71020(1 Speciality Hospital ....(02) 7103100

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The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre5856856
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Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5607431
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talian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3
Al-Bashir4775111/26
Army, Marka4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital5157100
Amal Hoenital 5607155

...(02)275555 Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275 Nafees Hospital Al ...(02) 7101372, (02) 7103101 Sisters Hospital

> AQABA: Hospital Haya (03)2014111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250. Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

#### ARRIVALS

Royal	Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
09:30	Tehran (RJ)
09:30	New Delhi (RJ)

..Beirui iRJi ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:50 ......Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 11:20 .....Colombo (RJ) 15:00 .. New York. Amsterdam (RJ) .....London (RJ) .Linz (add) (RJ) ..... Frankfurt (RJ) 20:10 ....Rome (RJ) 22:50. ...Larnaca (RJ) ........Paris (RI) Bangkok, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights 13:15 ....Riyadh (SV) 13:20 Abu Dhabi. Doha (GF) ...Milan (AZ) 15:05 .... Vienna (OS) .....Dubai, Damascus (EK) 18:00 .....Beirut (ME) ....Paris (AF) .....Frankfun (LH) 20:30 21:35 .... .....Cairo (MS) 22:55 London, Damascus (BA) 01:00 .....Belgrade (JU)

Royal Wings (RW) 08:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) 08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) 18:00 Aqaba tarriving at Marka

Airport) (RW)

01:15 Amsterdam, Beirul (KL)

DEPARTURES

"low."
The interior minister said it
would take "at least a week" to
complete the ballot counting
and publish the results.
The lead and the allegations had

He insisted the elections had

The campaign for Friday's

On Wednesday automatic

There were also reports of stabbing and attacks at various rallies around the country. Khatami himself cast his

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Sin will be last dec

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Commence of

Hrs. War-year Mr. Sarayear Mr.

·: INC III

candleli

By Michael Pena

MARINON - Hamad have the or of Sahab, has field toffeed (we things on Parameters that his city to had an does more pros-Now his bester to take him on the foun than the language of Athan Downs Ramon Mayor

Mon Athan! The unlikely bal mel in an informal Manious sorts at City Balliest Monday morning. laner brother, Sameer Aby Zand of San Ramon. Medical the mayoral meetbon in town visiting that for two weeks. than her on the edge of a tegion about eight Tile, east of Amman. Ment residents in Sahab. population 50.000, make a

Royal Wings (RW) fam the Dead Sea. But 06:00 Aqaba (from QAIA) ther elected in a 1997 08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airpublic vote aid his city's beggest industry is its peo-19:45 Aqaba (from Marka Air-

Sahab doesn't have oil, Yand doesn't have gas, said fald, a senior engineer at a hemon computer compairday, February 27

IDADCIBAS BUG (25662)

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Mourners place candles near the tomb of the late King Hussein on Thursday in a special memorial (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Candlelight memorial held for King Hussein

AMMAN (AP) — About 1.000 Jordanians carrying candles walked slowly through Amman at nightfall Thursday to pay their respects at the billtop tomb of King Hussein.

Meanwhile, representatives of the country's one million labour unionists pledged allegiance to King Hussein's eldest son, His Majesty King Abdullah, in a move reflecting growing public confidence in the new monarch.

King Hussein died of cancer on Feb. 7.

The pledge of allegiance to King Abdullah, 37, came in a letter issued Thursday at a meeting of 30 representatives of the Kingdom's 17 labour syndicates.

"On behalf of the one million workers throughout the Kingdom, 1 am honoured. Your Majesty, to pledge allegiance and sincere loyalty to your Hashemite Throne." said the letter, signed by the syndicates\* president Mazen Ma'aytah.

Such a pledge underlines growing public confidence in the career army officer who spent the last 10 years as the commander of the Special Forces charged with internal secu-

He represented King Hussein in several state functions at home and abroad. In the 5-kilometer (3-

mile) walk from Amman's Nuzha district to the Royal Palaces compound, the candle marchers, mostly women and children in black, chanted: "There is no god but One and Hussein is his loved one."

The march was organized by the Saudi-Jordanian Committee for Culture, but Jordanians from all walks of life joined it: bedouin tribesmen in headdresses and head-to-toe robes and others in jeans, T-shirts and baseball caps.

They marched through the black gates of the Royal compound to the cemetery where loudspeakers broadcast verses from the, Holy Koran. At the grave, women and

children knelt to the ground to place hundreds of lit candles near the tomb, illumithousands of wreaths and pictures of King Hussein blanketing the tomb.

One of the marchers, Zeinab Bakri, 26, said tearfully that the candle burning was a tradition to bid farewell to a loved one.

"He was the light of our life when be was alive and now we give him light to light his path to heaven."

## Britain, NHF sign accord to train trainers

have signed a two-year agreement to provide support to NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development.

The agreement, signed Thursday, stipulates that Britain's Department for International Development (DFID) will aid the insitute through "Training of Trainers" programmes for Ministry of Health medical staff. The training will involve educating health-care workers on the prevention and early desection of childhood disabilities.

The agreement was signed by British Ambassador to Jordan Christopher Battiscombe and Noor Al Hussein Foundation Executive Director Sima Bahous.

The NHF will draw on the institute's experience for the last decade, an NHF

statement said. Bahous said Thursday that "According to

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein the World Health Organisation, 70 per cent Foundation and the British government of disability needs can be met through inexpensive techniques and proper training in prevention, early detection, and rehabilitation. NHF is playing a leading role in addressing this need in Jordan and the

NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development was established in 1986 to support national efforts to raise child health-care standards in Jordan by improving growth monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment practices.

The institute includes a model Mother and Child Health Clinic and a Child Development Unit. The two units provide development assessment and supervision of minor to moderate handicaps, and design programmes to improve the monitoring of the physical health and psycho-social needs

# Government to survey goat population ahead of measures to fend off drought

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN - The Cabinet bas decided to conduct a one-day survey on Thursday to count goat heads and assess their geographic distribution in order to take effective measures to help livestock breeders cope with the officiallydeclared state of drought, officials said Friday.

Several committees have been formed for that purpose; a higher committee, including the General Statistics Department, and the ministries of interior and agriculture, a technical committee and a central committee responsible in each governorate.

More than 7,000 people in 1,100 sub-committees around the Kingdom will participate in the survey, which will be carried out from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Kingdom has incurred \$15 million in losses as a result of the drought, which has affected livestock. Drought conditions encourage the spread of diseases such as the dangerous, and often fatal, footand-mouth disease that plagues cloven-footed animals. The govern-

U.S. to give

Jordan

wheat

100,000

tonnes of

AMMAN (J.T.) - The U.S.

has agreed to give Jordan, at

no cost, 100,000 metric

tonnes, or \$13 million worth,

The U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) will pro-

vide the shipment of grain in

accordance with section 416b

which allows the USDA to

donate American wheat to eli-

gible countries both through

private voluntary organisations

and through government to

government agreements, such

as the one signed Thursday by

Ambassador William J. Burns

and Planning Minister Nabil

"I think this [agreement]

will help Jordan and the peo-

ple of Jordan in several ways,"

Burns said. "First, the dona-

tion of wheat and the special

fund that is created along with

it, we estimate, will help as

many as 200,000 needy Jorda-

nians acquire food, shelter and

"Secondly, the donation of

American wheat will also help

Jordan with its balance of pay-

ments problems and also with

the budget deficit," Burns said.

"And third, I think at a time

when Jordan faces possible

water shortages and also pres-

sures on the agricultural sector,

donations of wheat are also a

somewhat poor community

that, like the entire Middle

East, exists under the shad-

ow of the Israeli-Palestin-

"Hatred is one factor of

the conflict; poverty is

great help."

clothing," he added.

of American wheat,

ment has launched a nationwide campaign against the highly-contagious disease, enzootic in the Mid-

One million vaccination doses bave been ordered from Turkey and France since the country's supplies against the disease were exhausted. The government has appealed for food aid to assist farmers and

underprivileged Jordanians. One week ago, the World Food Programme (WFP) agreed to donate 8,000 tonnes of wheat to Jordan after a Jordanian delegation briefed a WFP meeting in Rome about the current obstacles facing the country.

Since the commencement of its operations in Jordan in 1964, the WFP has provided support to 32 development projects and 17 emergency operations in the Kingdom with aid worth about \$188 million.

At present, the country produces around 75,000 tonnes of wheat, less than 10 per cent of the annual domestic consumption. The Kingdom annually produces only 30,000 tonnes of the 500,000 tonnes of barley needed to feed cattle and 13.000 of the 15,000 tonnes of bran

The U.S. also has agreed to give Jordan, at no cost, 100,000 metric tonnes, or \$13 million worth, of American wheat (see separate

In January, when a state of drought was officially declared, the government said it would create a fund to ensure JD12 million in interest-free loans to livestock breeders to help them buy barley and grain at reduced prices. State grazing reserves will be open to the public, while the ministries of water and irrigation and agriculture will provide water for livestock from desert wells. Water rationing will continue.

Grain prices have been reduced: barley has dropped from around JD100 per tonne to JD87 and bran from around JD95 per tonne to

These measures are designed to help breeders of over three million heads of livestock in Jordan provide feed for their animals.

Amounts of water designated for agricultural use are now rationed. while a ban on some crops that require high amounts of water is

under consideration. Water ration regulations for banana and citrus fruits are currenly being studied, while summer crops such as mallow, eggplant and corn could be

prohibited. The Water Authority said it will reduce the amount of water pumped to the Southern Ghor for agricultural use by 50 per cent; to the Northern Ghor by 20 per cent; and to the Central Ghor by 10 per cent.

At present, around 650 million cubic metres (mcm) of water a year are used for agriculture, part of which is non-renewable, according

to water experts. Such regulations had drew the criticism of farmers and agricultural industry leaders, saying that the private sector and the whole indus-

try will be harmed. Up to date, the Kingdom's dams of 160 mcm capacity have collected

The major increase was in the 72mcm King Abdullah Dam, which received 35.9 mcm and the lti-mcm Wadi Arab Dam that got 11mcm.

This year's drought is the worst since the 1950s, according to the Meteorological Department.

## Prosecutor general to appeal court ruling on Al Majd weekly's suspension

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — The government will contest a Court of Appeals ruling which overturned a recent First Instance Court decision to suspend the opposition weekly Al Majd, Minister of Justice Jawdat Shoul told the Jordan Times, Fri-

"Within the next week the prosecutor general will appeal the court's ruling." said the minister.

However, several lawyers have ruled out the possibility of another court-ordered closure of Al Majd.

· Lawyers have said that it is unlikely that the court would overrule the Appeals Court ruling, taken during an emergency session. The fact that the ruling was taken during an emergency session implies that the decision was urgent and irreversible, they said. "Al Majd called for an emergency ses-

sion, and in this case, the Court of Appeal's decision is final even if the Court of Cassation rejects its ruling," said Salim Al Zu'bi, a lawyer. Journalists last week hailed the Appeals Court decision as a victory for

sion to contest the Amman Court deci-

press freedoms, since the decision will allow the newspaper to continue publishing while its case is reviewed by the According to Article 50 of the contro-

versial Press and Publications Law of 1998, endorsed by both houses of Parliament last summer, the courts have a right to order closed any newspaper under investigation for violations of the law. The 1998 press law is the first to allow

any of the three authorities to order a paper to close. The 1998 press law received international condmenation for this and many other articles.

The opposition weekly Al Majd hit newsstands again after having been closed by the Amman Court of First Instance's order for five days. Last Monday, the Court of Appeal overturned the First Instance Court's decision to suspend the publication while its editor, Fahed Rimawi, stands trial on charges of publishing slanderous information about the Royal family, insulting information about the prime minister and members of the government and attacking the integrity of the security service. Rimawi was detained on Feb. 4 and released on

bail two days later. The Appeals Court last week overruled for "technical reasons."

Khalil Khourma, managing editor of Al Majd, hailed "the justice and integrity of the Jordanian judiciary which proved once again to be a backer of freedom, rights and democracy."

Rimawi is the first journalist to stand trial under the 1998 Press and Publications Law - at the heart of international, regional and local criticism by press freedoms and human rights groups.

Journalists said Al Majd's brief ban appears to have created unease between the Jordan Press Association and the Press and Publications Department (PPD), which decided to take the case to court after the association failed to look

PPD Director Iyad Qatan blamed the Jordan Press Association (JPA) for breaking an agreement reached last summer with Information Minister Nasser Judeh that the JPA would review any case of legal or ethical vilations refered to it by the PPD to refer to the association any professional violations committed by journalists, which in turn reserves the right to take punitive action against members through a special disciplinary

The deal was reached in line with government pledges to implement the controversial law in a amicable manner to ease tension sparked by the previous government's heavy-handed dealings with the press.

"The PPD referred various cases to the JPA's board which has failed to take any action," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Qattan as saying.

"This forced the PPD to send Al Majd to court," be added.

"It appears from statements made by JPA board members that their desire to win votes in future JPA elections is an obstacle in reviving the JPA's by-laws, especially the reactivation of the disciplinary council."

However, JPA President Self Sharing said the association had studied all cases referred to it.

"It appears that the association's measures did not appeal to Mr. Qattan and this is something that does not concern us as we cannot be the hangman of the press," he said.

"On the contrary, we deal with laws

with a view to organising and unleashing general freedoms, not suppressing them and acting as prosecutors of journalists."

# Sahab mayor proves a hit in San Ramon

By Michael Pena

SAN RAMON - Hamad Jaber, mayor of Sahab, has already noticed two things San Ramon has that his city in Jordan does not: prosperity and parks.

So who better to take him out on the town than the namesake of Athan Downs park. San Ramon Mayor Byron Athan? The unlikely pair met in an informal summit-of-sorts at City Hall last Monday morning. Jaber's brother, Sameer

Abu Zaid of San Ranion. arranged the mayoral meeting with city officials while Jaber is in town visiting family for two weeks. Sahab lies on the edge of a desert region about eight miles east of Amman.

Many residents in Sahab. population 50,000, make a living extracting minerals from the Dead Sca. But Jaber, elected in a 1997 public vote aid his city's biggest industry is its peo-

"Sahab doesn't have oil, it doesn't have gas," said Zaid, a senior engineer at a Fremont computer company. "One of the things we can learn from San Ramon is how to attract business into Sahab." However, his brother

all work and no play.

points out that Sahab is not

the needy.

as King Hussein says."

'One of the most needed things in a city the size of Sahab

is public parks."

"One of the most needed things in a city the size of Sahab is public parks," said Jaber, who has a doctorate from the University of Jordan and taught high school chemistry for 20 years before running for mayor.

Jaber's role was especially critical when King Hussein, Jordan's beloved leader for 47 years, died of cancer Feb. 7 at age 63. Hussein's stature as a leader in the Middle East was unquestioned, as shown by the outpouring of grief in Jordan and

throughout the world. "He built Jordan from the desert," said Jaber, wbo

ing of sheep in Hussein's honour and the subsequent distribution of the meat to 'All Jordan is a family,'

saw to the city's slaughter-

ian peace process.

And that is what San

Ramon's mayor said be can

learn from his Jordanian

counterpart. Athan, as

mayor of a bustling suburb

that has seen immense

in need of more community

"There's always some-

thing to gain," said Athan,

voted to a one-year may-

oral term by fellow council

that's a hundred years old."

back to Sahab every year

with this family. He

describes it as a safe but

another," Zaid said. "Talking about peace is one thing; implementing peace is another thing."

Sahab's local government consists of an eight-member council and a mayor who serves for four years. Jaber, who came with his wife and parents, will stay with his brother another two weeks before visiting Reno and Lake Tahoe.

growth, said San Ramon is Athan invited Jaber to introduce himself to the city at a council meeting, and in turn, Jaber invited Athan to visit Sahab.

men in November. "We're a He respectfully declined. new city, and they're a city "I hadn't planned on it," Athan said, "This is new to Zaid, who came to the United States in 1985, goes

> - Reprinted from the San Ramon Times

## **April marathon** to raise funds for neurological patients

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN - The 7th annual Amman-Dead Sea Ultra Marathon will be held on April 9 to raise funds for patients suffering from

neurological diseases.
The 50-kilometre charity marathon will be organised by the Amman Road Runners for the benefit of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients.

HRH Prince Firas Ben Raad, His Majesty King Abdullah's adviser for health affairs, is president of the society which bas so far spent JD61,480 on 69 neurological patients. The Society for the Care

of Neurological Patients funds neurological surgery for needy Jordanians as well as seeking to increase awareness of neurological disease, including epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

"As the marathon's participants increased, it was thought that this would be an excellent opportunity to raise money for the charity and encourage more runners to take part," Reem Farkouh, Amman Road Runners representative. said at a press conference Tuesday.

Participants will kick off from the 7th Circle in Amman at 6:30 a.m., from where they will jog their way on down to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth.

Runners undergo a drop in altitude as they move towards their final destination, and along with it, they'll experience an increase in temperatures - from 15°C in Amman at 900 metres above sea level soaring to an average of 32°C at 400 metres below sea level.

But runners will be supplied with water every four kilometres.

"The ultra marathon will include 30 participants from 19 countries other than Jordan," Farkouh said. Several leading Jordanbased enterprises, including LG electronics, Fastlink, and the Dead Sea Movenpick Hotel are sponsoring the event.

"But we are in need of more funds and we really appreciate everyone's participation in this fund-raising event to belp us reach needed people," said Rafiq Hamarneh from the soci-

## Iraq seeks to expand bilateral trade

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said Thursday that Baghdad hopes to expand economic and trade cooperation with Jordan.

"Cooperation between Jordan and Iraq is well-establish and developed and the Iraqi leadership is serious about continuing it in all domains," said Ramadan, quoted by the official INA news agency.

His comments came following a meeting here with Minister of Trade and Industry Mohammed Saleh Hourani, who arrived in Baghdad Wednesday for talks with Iraqi officials as well as a meeting of the joint Iragi-Jordanian commission.

Jordan, which has no known crude reserves, has already agreed to import 4.8 million tonnes of Iraqi crude in 1999 as in past years, around half of which is delivered free while the rest sells for more than the current market price.

The bilateral trade deal has been exempt from U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Jordan relies entirely on Iraq, its main bilateral trading partner, to meet its oil requirements.

Also Thursday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received opposition figure Leith Shbeilat Thursday, the INA reported. The agency gave no indication of the substance of the talks between Saddam Hussein and Shbeilat, former head of the Jordan Engineers Association who was jailed for nine months last May for his role in organising pro-Iraqi protests in the southern town of Ma'an in which one per-

Condolences

son was killed.

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times

mourn the passing of

Khalil Wahbeh

beloved father of our friend Hassan Wahbeh and father-in-law of our colleague Ica Wahbeh

May his soul rest in peace

# Kosovo tensions rise, monitors held at border

PRISTINA. Serbia (R) mounted in Kosovo on Friday, as armoured equipment and several international monitors were prevented from coming from Macedonia into the Serb province.

Meanwhile France Presse reported that clashes erupted Friday hetween Serh police and rehels of the Kosovo Liberation Army in the south of Kosovo province, a spokesman for the Verification Kosovo Mission

Prizren, Yugoslavia said. At 3:40 p.m. (14:40 GMT), fighting was still taking place after heginning some 20 minutes earlier. KVM spokesman Simon Gerry snid, adding he had no reports on casu-

Eight employees of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were forced to spend the night in their cars after being prevented from entering Kosovo, said Beatrice Lacoste, spokes-woman for the OSCE's Verification Mission, Negotiations for their release were continu-

International monitors said army and police troops were out in force around the central Suva Reka area. where the KVM managed to defuse a potentially violent standoff on Thursday.

"There is a large build up Serh troops and artillery," a KVM monitor Yugoslav security forces said. There are tanks, deployed troops and APCs (armoured personnel carriers) and extra secuity forces deployed." The area. where the KVM managed persuade Albanian guerrillas not to

Agence attack a police patrol on Thursday, is just a few kilometres away from Studencane, where fighting erupted on Saturday, forcing thousands to flee their homes. A similar situation was

reported around Vucitrn in northern Kosovo where sporadic fighting has flared over the past week.

On Thursday, tank, heavy machine gun, niortar and small arms fire broke out in the north of the province after the security forces deployed the full range of their heavy artillery in what they called a "winter training exercise."

An aid agency official said on Friday four ethnic Alhanians had been wounded in Thursday's gunfire exchanges around Bukos.

Lacoste said three OSCE vehicles carrying interna-tional monitors had been refused entry into Kosovo Macedonia Thursday night.

A fourth vehicle, which came from Pristina with customs officials to negotiate their release, was also prevented from leaving the border area.



Serbian police patrol take a break in the village of Rastane, near Suva Reka, some 60 kms southwest of Pristina Friday. (AP photo)

OSCE vehicles had been stopped by customs guards on the Yugoslav side of the border after crossing through the police check-

They demanded to check the car, and a British monitor refused, on the grounds the OSCE vehicles were granted diplomatic immunity. A third vehicle came across later and was prevented from crossing into the Serbian province of

"This is against the

Vienna Convention, the vehicles have diplomatic OSCE immunity.' spokesman said. He said the OSCE

international were blocked in by other vehicles. "They were also intimi-

dated by civilians who arrived armed with AK 47s and went into the customs huilding. They left without their guns," he said.

Lacoste said negotiations for their release were still employees, including three continuing.

Yugoslav officials who deal with the OSCE were unsuccessful.

The ethnic Alhanian-run Kosovo Information Centre said on Friday fighting had hroken out in some villages near the Macedonian horder, forcing residents to

## Russian police raid Moscow centre for Scientology

MOSCOW (AP) - Police seized boxes of documents from the Scientology Movement and questioned the group's leaders Friday, the latest in a series of government actions against religious groups in Russia. Tax - police and other

security services spent 16 hours confiscating materials at the group's Moscow returned Friday morning to question the Scientologists. a controversial international spiritual organisation.

Authorities were searching rooms and preventing people from working, said Pirta Heldt, a consultant at the centre.

The tax police said they were investigating possible tax evasion and other financial irregularities, hut the Scientologists said the move was politically moti-

"Cruelty was in the air during this visit (by the tax police), which has reminded us that Russia has not yet acquired the right of freedom - freedom to think and act in accordance with the convictions of Alexei Danchenkov, a spokesman statement.

The Scientology Centre in Moscow is formally called the Humanitarian Hubbard Centre, named after the founder of Scientology, L. Ron Huhhard. It holds regular classes for both youths and adults, attracting about 200 students each week, Danchenkov.

Russian authorities bave moved against a number of religious organisations following the passage of a 1997 law that placed widespread restrictions on "nontraditional" faiths.

The Russian Orthodox Church, the dominant religion, strongly supports the measure and often speaks out against religious groups that have been arriving in Russia since the Soviet hreakup in 1991.

But human rights groups say the law is reminiscent of the anti-religion drives during the Soviet era, when the Communists decreed an official policy of atheism and many religious groups had to operate underground.

The current cases include:

Petersburg, more than 40 teachers and children at a Christian school bave been holed up inside their building since Tuesday, under the eye of police in comhat fatigues outside. The city gave the society of open Christianity a rent-free lease on the aging huilding in 1991, but are now demanding it hack. The

are seeking to han the Jehovah's Witnesses in an ongoing trial. Prosecutors have accused the group of "aggressive proselytism" and describe it is a cult that destroys families, fosters

Magadan, authorities bave sought for months to close

hers applied for asylum in

group wants a new site for - Moscow prosecutors

hatred and threatens lives. - In the eastern city of

the word of life Pentecostalist Church. A prosecutor has accused church leaders of hypnotising people, while tax police and the security services have conducted raids and interrogations. Earlier this month. 400 church mem-

In Sı.

## Human rights group says religious violence could affect Indonesia vote

AMBON. Indonesia (AP) - Soldiers fired warning shots Friday to disperse rioters who were hurning houses in an Indonesian town that has been plagued hy religious violence.

In another part of Ambon city, about 1,000 people protested peacefully outside the police headquarters to protest officers' sbooting of brawling Muslim and ang membe

And an international human rights group warned that violence in the Ambon area could widen national divisions ahead of parliamentary elections in June. At least 24 people have

died in unrest this week in and near the city of Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, and thousands of refugees have fled on boats. Violence persisted for a fourth consecutive day

Friday. Christian mobs threw stones at the homes of Muslim government officials, and smoke hillowed

from burning houses. witnesses said. Security forces dispersed the crowds by firing volleys of gunshots.

Some 3,500 Muslims

mosque Friday.
"We bave nothing now,"

said one of the refugees, 37-year-old Rahma Suli, wbose home was burned hy rioters. New York-hased Human Rights Watch said the violence could exacerbate teligious tensions across the predominately Muslim Nation of 210 million people. The riots hit areas with

large Christian populations.
"The polarisation is likely to affect campaigning for the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for June, channeling political debate into communal issues," the human rights group said in a statement released Thursday.

The elections are expected to be the fairest in more than four decades, and foilow the ouster last year of authoritarian President Subarto. However, there are fears of violence between rival political factions.

At the height of the Ambon fighting this week, mohs battled each other with swords, bows and arrows and gasoline bombs. Soldiers fired on the rioters repeatedly in an attempt

to disperse them. Human Rights Watch appealed for international

humanitarian assistance for the refugees and questioned the ability of the security

forces to curb the unrest using non-lethal means. "They are using live hullets and appear to be unequipped to handle the kind of large-scale unrest they are facing," the group

Amhon is 2,250 kilometres east of Jakarta, the

Economic hardship, ethnic tensions, gang feuds and political rivalries have stirred unrest in Indonesia since the downfall of Suharto.

More than 150 people have died in rioting on several Maluku islands this year. In riots last month, more than 3,300 houses and two dozen churches and mosques were hurned.

"Some national Muslim political parties see Ambon as evidence of Islam under siege hy a Christian minority resentful of its declining influence," Human Rights Watch said.

"Many Indonesian Christians, meanwhile, see it as evidence of their increasingly position in a Muslim major-

#### were sheltering in a city India government faces Tempers flare over Gibraltar, again test over state rule But Gibraltar Chief LONDON (AFP) — Tempers

NEW DELHI (R) — India's fragile coalinon government was headed Friday for a knifeedge vote in parliament over a controversial decision to impose direct rule in the eastern state of Bihar.

The government, which dismissed Bihar's opposition-led administration earlier this month after a wave of caste violence, has sought parliamentary approval in a vote that is expected to go down to the wire.

The government would not have to quit if it lost Friday's vote, but it would be the second time the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led coalition has been humiliated over Bihar. where it says law and order have broken

Last September, the federal government backed off after President K.R. Narayanan urged it to reconsider its recommendation to sack the provincial government in Bihar.

BJP spokesman Venkaiah Naidu said he was confident that the lower house of parliament would approve the resolution and was hoping for the crucial backing of a regional group, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)

"By evening the Lok Sabha (lower house) will approve the resolution with regard to the resolution on Bihar and ending of Jungle Raj (the law of the jungle) in Bihar." he said.

Nearly a year after it took power, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's multi-party alliance is still perched on a wafer-thin majority in a fragmented parliament, and is racked by internal dissent over a range of issues. including dismissal of state governments. Vappayee was expected to speak in the debate at around 4:00 p.m. (1030 GMT) ahead of a vote in the evening. The main opposition party, Congress, has

led the challenge but a clutch of regional groups have traditionally opposed removal of elected provincial governments.

TDP, which bailed out the government in a trust vote last year, kept the political world in suspense.

The 12-member TDP group of lawmakers, which has consistently opposed the dismissal of state governments on grounds that the authority is abused to settle political scores. would decide on the vote Friday, party officials said.

"We will announce our decision at an appropriate time." Chandrababu Naidu, TDP chief and chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state, told reporters in the southern city of

The TDP faces a peculiar situation... But the TDP is also determined not to allow the Congress to take advantage of the situation if the BJP-led government is defeated on the floor of parliament on the Bihar issue," a senior TDP leader said.

The challenge to the government over Bihar bas erupted a day before it presents the federal budget for 1999/2000 (April-March)

flared again Friday over Gihraltar after talks between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Spanish counterpart Jose Maria Aznar.

The two met Thursday in Bonn ahead of an EU summit and agreed to hold an Angio-Spanish summit to tackle tensions over the British territory on the southern tip of Spain.

Agreeing on a date of April 10-11, they also pledged to work together to resolve their differences and continue a dialogue started this week by their foreign ministers. But in London. Spain and

Gibraltar clashed again over the territory, which has been under British rule since 1713. Jose Maria Robles Fragra, the foreign affairs spokesnian for Spain's ruling popular party, hranded Gibraltar a 'parasite" on Spain, which is pressing its claim for sover-

He said it was a "source of all kinds of difficulties," and claimed there were more than 50,000 companies there under "no fiscal control."

"This is of course the way of more money-laundering." he told BBC radio.

Minister Pete Caruana hit hack on the same programme, calling Fragra's comments "defamatory disinformation."

"It is a tissue of lies which the British government is tired of telling the Mudrid government is a tissue of lies," he said. The claims were part of the

Spanish campaign to take hack sovereignty over Gibraltar, Caruana added. "What do all these allegations, false and unsubstantiated and unjustified as they are ... have to do with Gibraltar's

sovereign status?" Recent disputes between Spain and Britain over Gibraltar have centred on fishing rights, crime -Madrid claims it is a haven for tohacco and drugs smugglers, tax dodgers and money-launderers --- as well as restrictive border controls on the Spanish side.

Blair's meeting Thursday with Aznar came ahead of the EU summit in Bonn, which started Friday. British and Spanish sources, seeking to cool tensions, said the talks had again underlined the strong personal relationship

between the premiers. Sunday, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook met Spanish counterpart Abel Matutes in Luxembourg and agreed to jointly examine Madrid's concerns over crime.

Matutes warned Madrid wanted "action, not iust words," over its fears about tobacco and drugs smuggling, money laundering and tax evasion. Cook said they had com-

mitted themselves to further talks to ease tensions. "We want to work with Spain to establish a stronger partnership," he added.

But he admitted he had failed to win a firm commitment from Matutes to ending the restrictive border controls Madrid has imposed on the border with Gibraltar in retaliation over the fishing dis-

The controls have forced residents of the territory, many of whom work in Spain, to endure delays of up to six hours at the horder. Spaniards who work in Gibraltar have also registered

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Belgian police protest against reforms

BRUSSELS (AFP) -- Up to 1,200 police and gendarmes took to the streets here Friday to protest against proposed reforms of the service which aim to phase out the 200-year-old gendarmerie by 2001, police said. Many of the protestors - who numbered only 700 according to the interior ministry --- wore their uniforms, blew their service whistles, chanted slogans and waved banners denouncing the proposed merger of the two police branches as "undemocratic." The reform aims to replace the powerful gendamerie, a military force carrying out police duties, and the criminal police with a new unified federal and local force. It would be the first major reform of Belgium's police force since the nation's confidence in its law enforcers was shaken by the botched investigation of child rapist Marc Dutroux two years ago.

#### Strong quake rocks northern Japan, no injuries reported

TOKYO (AP) - A strong earthquake rocked parts of northem Japan Friday, turning over shelves and tearing cracks into roads. But there were no reports of injuries. The quake, which struck at 2:18 p.m. (0518 GMT), had a preliminary magnitude of 5.4. Its epicenter was 20 kilometres under the ocean floor just off the northwestern coast near the city of Sakata, 370 kilometres north of Tokyo. Police in Yarnagata prefecture tstate) said that some roads cracked, a brick wall collapsed and shelves toppled in supermarkets and homes. There were no reports of injuries, the official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. "We have not heard of any injuries or major damage in the area." said Sakata city official Chiaki Oda, adding the temblor knocked over some items on desks in her office but did not shatter anything. Shinkansen bullet train service on the Tohoku and Joetsu lines was briefly interrupted but resumed after no damage was detected, said an East Japan Railway Co. spokesman. There was no fear of Tsunarni, or earthquake-caused waves, from the quake, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said, Japan is located along the Pacific "ring of fire." one of the most earthquake-prone regions of the world.

#### Afghan 'mystery' disease diagnosed as respiratory ailment --- WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - A "mystery" disease that has caused more than 150 deaths in several remote Afghan villages has been initially identified as a respiratory ailment, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday. A team which reached Jamarjebala in northeast Afghanistan to investigate said there was no evidence of plague, malaria, cholera and typhus, the who said in Geneva. There have been between 50 and 60 deaths in the village since Jan. 10. The suspicion is that that deaths were caused by secondary infections. The symptoms are those of influenza, the WHO said, Local health authorities had told the WHO that around 2.000 people in almost 20 villages had suffered from fever, aches, vomiting and diarrhoea, with at least 150 deaths. Health specialists plan to stay in the field tinfil Sunday, the WHO said.

#### African states call for democratic Congo ceasefire

YAOUNDE (R) -- Central African heads of state have called for a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country. The leaders, who met in Cameroon on Thursday, also called on the parties in the Angolan civil war to respect the Lusaka peace accords and expressed concern over the niggling border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria. In a statement released after the summit, the leaders said the Congo conflict threatened peace and stability across Africa and they called on the country's leaders to pursue dialogue and accelerate the democratic process. Congolese President Laurent Kahila was among the heads of state present. The rebels in his country are backed hy Rwanda, whose foreign minister attended the summit, and by Uganda, which was not represented. The leaders of Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic and Sao Tome and Principe were also present, in addition to Paul Biya, president of host Cameroon. Gabon was represented by its vice president and Equatorial Guinea by its prime minister. The leaders appealed to Nigeria and Cameroon to refrain from acts likely to raise tension ahead of a verdict on the dispute from the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Finally, they said armed robbery and banditry was rife in Central Africa and called on all countries in the region to take measures to prevent arms trafficking and the circulation of light weapons across

#### FCC rules Internet calls are under federal jurisdiction

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ruled that Internet access telephone calls are under federal jurisdiction, overruling state regulatory authorties that claimed they were local calls. The decision issued Thursday is not expected to affect Internet call pricing at the consumer level, but resolves a dispute among telephone companies over how to compensate each other for Internet connections. Internet access firms praised the decision as affirming contracts for connections with local telephone companies. 'The FCC's decision should remove any lingering doubts about the validity of the current contracts," MCI Worldcom said in a statement, "As such, MCI Worldcom calls on the (local) bell companies to abandon their misguided efforts to renege on their legally binding agreements," the state-

#### Suspected cannibal goes on trial in Kyrgyzstan

MOSCOW (AP) - A man suspected of killing and eating his girlfriend and an apartment tenant went on trial Friday in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan, a news report said. The man, identified as Pavel Gorobets, is accused of cannibalising. his girifriend, Valentina Kashina, and his tenant, Vladimir Grekhovodov, the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted prosecutors as saying. Before the trial in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek. Gorobets also told investigators he had made dishes of the victims and fed them to a friend, according to the report. Police found parts of the dismembered bodies last April not far from the house where all three had once lived. The judge in the case said experts had found Gorobets mentally fit for trial. If convicted, he could face the death sentence or up to 20 years in

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# Sino-U.S. tension mounts ahead of Albright visit

BEIJING (AFP) \_\_ Chioa oo Friday attacked a U.S. Senate resolution condemning what it saw as Chinese buman rights violations, adding to tensions ahead of a visit next week by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright. Trade, Taiwan and security bave all caused protests between the two giants, and Albright faces an even tougher task after the U.S. Senate resolution which urged a United Nations deploring

of China's rights record. "The Chinese side expresses strong resectment and opposition to the resolution," Chioa's foreign ministry said in a statemeot.

"The truth has been proven for many times that the human rights issue will not he resolved through coofrontation.

"Some people io the United States try to interfere with China's ioternal affairs using the human rights issue. But it will definitely fail," it added. "We hope the U.S. gov-

ernmeot will carefully and cautiously take a wise attitude to the issue.

The Senate approved a noo-binding resolution Thursday urging the U.S. delegation at the Uoited Nations to push for a U.N. resolution condemning China's rights record.

The United States and European Union last year refrained from tabling a U.N. resolution on Chinese burnan rights abuses, citing some improvements and an opening of dialogue with

China is now a signatory to U.N. covenants on civil and political rights

and on economic, social and cultural rights.

China has, however, been clampiog dowo oo banned China Democracy Party. It bas recently jailed party founders for leogthy terms.

The U.S. resolution was the latest io a list of prohlems dogging the two countries just as Premier Zhu Roogji prepares to visit the United States in April.

China on Thursday protested against the U.S. veto of the sale of a hightech satellite to a Chinese-led consortium. warning the move would worseo straioed ties.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue warned the Uoited States' "erroneous move" will have a negative effect on normal Chioa-U.S. economic and trade exchanges and cooperatioo.

The United States, citing oational security coocerns, blocked the sale of a Hugbes communications satellite system to ao Asian consortium whose partoers ioclude companies uoder the Chinese military.

China is also locked io talks with Washingtoo on its eotry ioto the World Trade Organisatioo.

Washiogtoo has heen pressing Beijing to open its markets wider to U.S. products and reduce its \$60 billion trade surplus with the United States.

A visit last week hy U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers marked the start of a series of U.S. efforts to revive stalled negotiations on China's accession to the WTO.

Representative Charlene Barshefsky will visit China immediately after Alhright and she will he followed by U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley in late March.

U.S. officials hope to forge ao agreement in time for Zhu's visit.

Aside from trade, ties have also been rattled by Taiwan, with China warning the United States against providing the island with advanced missile defence systems.

China made a "veiled threat" to share missile technology with third countries if Washington huilds a missile defeoce shield for its Asian allies, iocluding Taiwan, the Financial Times reported Friday.

Taiwao has accused Beijing of dramatically increasing its deployment of missiles aimed at the island.

Chioa, which views Taiwan as a reoegade provioce, has never renounced the option of using force against the island if it formally declares iodepeodeoce.

Beijing has also opposed any move'by the island to seek ioternational recognition and has vetoed a continued U.N. peacekeepiog force io Macedonia to protest Skopje's establishment of diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

In a reflection of the relations strained between the two countries, a New York Times report said top candidates for the U.S. ambassadorship in China have turned down the offer for the

# Hong Kong court bows to government, 'clarifies' controversial ruling

HONG KONG (AP) - The top court in Hong Kong said Friday it has no intent to challenge the power of mainland Chinese legislators, raising concerns it had bowed to political pressure in the territory's worst row with Beijing since the handover from British rule.

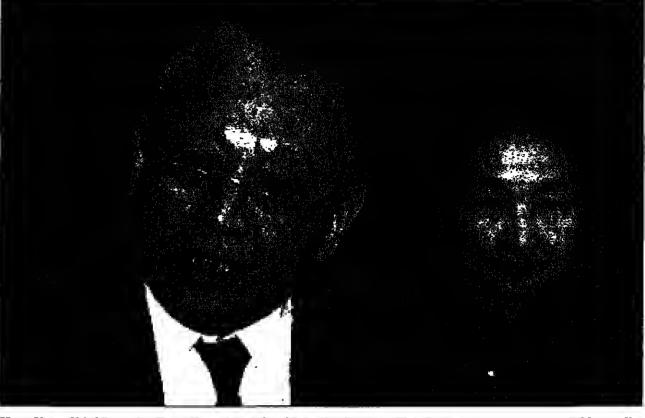
Critics immediately said justices had caved in to Hong Kong's government — which reports to mainland China after the court agreed to issue an unusual "clarification" to a landmark immigration ruling interpreted hy some as a threat to Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong.

"The court has bowed to political pressure," said Yash Ghai, a law professor and constitutional expert at Hoog Kong University. "It's still independent, but this is not a good precedeot." Hong Kong's independent. Britishstyle judiciary is viewed as vital for maintaining the territory's freedoms and its credihility as an international finance center.

"The court doesn't have to clarify when Hong Kong people do oot understand a ruling. But it has to explain itself wheo Beijing has a question. This is most absurd," said Martin Lee, a lawyer and leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

Hong Koog officials close to Beijing said they wel-comed the clarification, although they said the court still failed to answer one key question: Does Hong Kong or mainland China have the final say over the laws here? In the original ruling, the Court of Final Appeal said it has the power to overrule mainland Chinese legislation that hreaches Hong Kong's constitution, the basic law, adopted after Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

China's leaders have called



Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-Hwa, left, with Justice Secretary Elsie Leung, meet reporters on Friday to discuss the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal's clarification of a controversial immigration ruling (AP photo)

the ruling a mistake and said it should be rectified, according to Hong Kong officials who held emergeocy talks in Beijing on the issue.

In the ruling last month, the court said any mainland Chinese persoo with at least one Hong Kong parent has the constitutional right to live in Hoog Kong, The Hong Koog government fears this could let hundreds of thousands of people flood into the territory, overwhelming its education and welfare sys-

The court angered Beijing by saying China is violating the rights of any would-be immigrants by insisting that they obtain exit visas before

moving.

In the brief clarification

Friday, Chief Justice Andrew Li said justices oever meant to question the authority of China's most powerful legislative group, the standing committee of the National People's Coogress, as long as the Chinese lawmakers act in accordance with the basic

But Li stopped short of saying what Hong Kong justices would do with any mainland laws that hreach Hoog

Koog's constitution. Ma Lik, a local politician representing Hong Koog in China's National People's Congress, said justices will need to further clarify the original judgement.

"I'd like it to come out and say wbether the original decision was problematic. But the court's willingness to clarify should be enough to diffuse the dispute with Beijing, be

Hong Kong's government rattled the legal community earlier in the week by saying it would ask the court for a clarification of its cootroversial ruling, handed down last

The Hoog Kong Bar questioned Association whether the territory's top court even had the jurisdiction to clarify its own ruling.

Government counsel Geoffrey Ma insisted in a hearing early Friday that the Hong Koog government was not asking the justices to reverse the court's ruling and he disputed contentions that the independent judiciary "ooe country, two systems."

Foreign policy objectives outlined

was under attack.

Ma had told the justices clarification was needed to dispel some people's concerns that the court "has put itself above the power of the sovereign." Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-Hwa, met with reporters in the early evening and declared: "The system of rule of law is complete and intact." Tung refused to take

questions. Critics have said that if China, or the leadership it has chosen for Hong Kong, try to strong-arm Hong Kong's courts, that would pose a buge threat to the territory that is now governed with a great deal of local autonomy in an arrangement known as

# Arizona executes German killer after 2 hour delay

PHOENIX (R) — A Germanbom convicted killer was executed by lethal injection Wednesday following a twohour delay after he changed his mind at the last minute about his decision to die in Arizona's gas chamber, state prison officials said.

Officials said Karl Lagrand. whose case sparked highlevel protests from the government, received a lethal injection at 7:56 p.m. Mst (9:56 p.m. Est) (0256 GMT Thursday) inside the death house at the state prison complex at Florence, Arizona, about 96 km southeast of Phoenix. The 36-yearold was pronounced dead four minutes later.

Wimesses said Lagrand expressed remorse to the family of a hank manager he and his brother Walter murdered and the hank clerk they stahbed in southern Arizona in 1982. Walter Lagrand. 37, is scheduled to die in the state's gas chamber on March

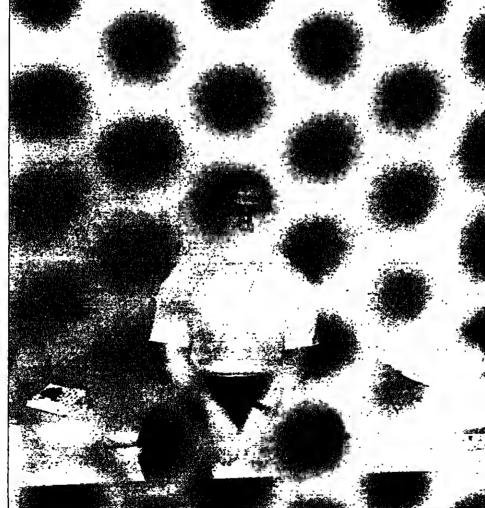
"I am sorry this took so long and dragged out, hui from the bonom of my heart I am sorry for what I did," Karl Lagrand told witnesses. "I hope that one day you can find it in your heart to forgive me. I do mean that from the bottom of my heart."

Lagrand also said he regretted putting his family through

he ordeal. Had Lagrand been executed hy cyanide gas inhalation as he had originally opted, he would have been the first individual to have died in Arizona's gas chamber since late 1992, when voters approved the exclusive use of

lethal injection. Inmates sentenced to die before 1992 can choose to be put to death by cyanide gas or lethal injection. None has

Lagrand was allowed at the last minute to choose again etween gas and lethal injection by Arizona's governor and the state attorney general, officials said. The switch



Walter LaGrand of Germany waits in his cell in the Special Management Unit II of the Arizona State Prison in Florence, Ariz., on Thursday, Feb. 11, 1999. The cell wall is heavy steel with quarter-inch holes. LaGrand is waiting for his March 3 execution date after heing convicted of murder. He will he taken to another cell 14 days before his scheduled execution on March 3 so he can he monitored by prison officials in case he tries to harm himself. LaGrand's hrother, Karl LaGrand, was executed on Wednesday, for the same

crime (AP photo) caused the execution to he delayed by nearly two hours.

The Lagrands had previously chosen to be executed by cyanide gas in apparent hopes of having their death sentences overturned or

delayed by the courts. The strategy seemed to work early Wednesday when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco issued a stay for Karl Lagrand on the grounds that the lethal gas represented cruel and punishment

Court later lifted the stay.

Lagrand spent his last bours meeting with his attorney and prison clergy, State Department of Corrections spokeswoman Camilla

Strongin said. His last meal consisted of two bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches, four fried eggs, hasb-brown potatoes, two breakfast rolls with strawberry jam, a half pint of sherbet and a slice of German chocolate cake. He washed

However, the U.S. Supreme the food down with coffee and milk.

The death sentence was carried out despite intense efforts by the German government to pressure Arizona into sparing the lives of the two brothers.

In recent weeks, they unsuccessfully lashed out against the death penalty and charged that authorities violated international law by not letting them contact the German consul.

reprieve came at a state board

of executive elemency hearing Tuesday attended by a delegation of top German officials, including that country's ambassador to the United States, Juergen Chrobog, and Claudia Roth, a member of the Bundestag, the federal assembly of Germany.

The officials had urged the four-member panel to call off the execution, branding it an inhumane punishment for those born in a country that

has no death penalty. German Foreign Minister Joshka Fischer issued a statement early Thursday calling the execution "extremely regrettable" and urging the United States to pardon Walter Lagrand, scheduled to be executed on March 3.

"Even the greatest sin is oo excuse to take a persoo's life." Fischer said in a statement released by the German embassy in Washington. He noted that a wide array of German officials and ordinary citizens had sought to prevent the execution of the German-born hrothers.

"The execution of Karl Lagrand binds Germany to continue its worldwide struggle, along with its European partners, against the death penalty," Fischer said.

Prosecutors said both the Lagrands deserved to die for fatally stabbing Ken Hartsock, a 63-year-old branch manager, during a bungled bank heist that

turned into murder. On Jan. 7, 1982, the Lagrands walked into a bank in a small community north of Tucson looking for money. Armed with a toy pistol, police said Karl Lagrand tried to force Hartsock to open the vault. He could not because be only had half the combina-

The two men bound and beat Hartsock, then stabbed him 24 times with a letter opener, prosecutors said. A bank clerk also was bound The latest pleas for a and stabbed six times. She

#### by Clinton for final years in office action around the globe, he ahead with existing policy.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -President Bill Clinton, outlining foreign policy goals for the final two years of his administratioo, is urging cootinoed American engagement in the quest for peace and freedom abroad.

Business and policy leaders in California were to hear from the president Friday about foreign affairs, "the successes that we've had over the last six years and the challenges that remain," White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart said.

Clinton gave a glimpse of the message he wants to deliver about confronting ethnic conflicts abroad and strengthening alliances when he appeared Wednesday at a White House news conference with Ghana's President Jerry

Rawlings. Clinton ooted the disastrous coosequences when the United States withdrew from world affairs after World War L A nation must reinforce its values with dialogue and

argued.

Aides who had seen an early draft of the foreign polibroad review of the international scene. Among the topics said to be covered are peace in the Middle East, expanding trade, the situaoons in Kosovo and Northern

ism poses to U.S. security. "The purpose of the speech is for the president to lay out his vision for continuing American leadership and supporting peace, prosperity and freedom into the next century," said one White House official who had reviewed a

Ireland, and the threat terror-

draft. With the impeachment trial over, Clinton has found himself more easily able to involve himself in foreign

policy. The president has faced criticism over the cootinued standoff with Iraq and the peace talks oo Kosovo. The speech, however, was being oot as a sign of a new direc-

While Clinton was expected cy address described it as a to tout his foreign policy accomplishmeots, he was admitting to some frustra-

> 'I've made no progress, although I've tried, in trying to get Greece and Turkey to get along," be said late Thursdaynight. T've made oo progress in trying to resolve the tensions between India and Pakistan."

> Clintoo also planned to mention this year's cotry into NATO of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. Another topic was the importance of fully integrating nations such as Russia and China into the world economic scheme if the U.S. and Europe are to have

> stable relations with them. Before the address, Clinton was meeting with William Perry, the former defence secretary, to hear his views on U.S. policy towards North Korea, where Perry recently

## Authorities accused of ignoring Tyrol avalanche warnings

portrayed as a call to press

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — Austrian that authorities could have dooe anything more authorities were accused Friday of having to prevent the tragedies, which hy Friday afterignored warnings of an imminent avalanche disaster, days before two snowslides which killed nearly 40 m a Tyrolean valley.

The charges were made by a Tyrolean TV

weatherman, who said he told authorities last week that three metres of snow was expected and that people in "at risk" areas should be immediately evacuated. They came as rescue helicopters continued Friday to evacuate thousands of shocked tourists from the entire Paznaun valley, still

double avalanche tragedy Tuesday and Wednesday. Weathermen Erhard Berger raised the issue last Friday, but was ignored by authorities ahead of the first snowslide Tuesday in the village of

blocked off from the outside world after the

Galtuer, the daily Kurier said. "I warned about the catastrophic situation," he was cited by the oewspaper as saying. "Friday evening I was at a crisis meeting of the provincial governor and also made the warning there."

Tyrol Governor Wendelin Weingartner denied

noon had claimed 37 lives, while one person remained missing.

Everyone can be clever in retrospect. But cobody expected this kind of once-a-ceotury event," he said, according to the APA news Erwin Koler, the government representative

valley, also denied that any of the huildings hit in the Galtuer snowslide were in so-called "at risk" zones. The village had not suffered an avalanche in living memory, and did not even have

avalanche barriers, he pointed out. Most of the

in Landeck at the end of the avalanche-strickeo

houses hit in Galtuer were therefore in low-risk "green zones," said Koler. Meanwhile, a tourism official in Ischgl, just along the Paznaun valley from the double tragedy, said the evacuation of the neighbouring hamlet of Valzur, hit by a further avalanche

Wednesday, was delayed. "It was clear Wednesday morning that the safety of the people in Valzur could not he guaranteed," the official, Alfons Parth, told the daily,

### Jordan Times

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## At it again

IT IS difficult to imagine what train of thought was running through Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's mind when he once more managed to undermine our confidence in Israel's intentions with his irresponsible and offensive comments.

We might have thought that, as Israel is anxious to secure Jordan's friendship and confidence at both the popular and official levels, a greater degree of diplomacy (not to mention common sense) could have heen exercised at this particular juncture of history, especially that Netanyahu's comments were made only days ahead of his scheduled visit to Jordan.

Netanyahu's public contention that "King Hussein...the knight of peace" allied himself with Saddam Hussein during Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and thus gave tacit support to the hombings of Tel Aviv, are a gross misrepresentation of historical fact demonstrating, once again, Netanyahn's complete lack of political sophistication and appreciation for Jordan's difficult position in the region and for the sac-rifices the Kingdom made for the cause of

His behaviour also shows an inexcusable lack of consideration for Jordanians, now in the midst of mourning a great leader. Most tellingly, his words demonstrate his utter contempt for Jordan, the country that gave him the chance once and again to prove he is a man of

What Netanyahu seems to he seeking is to apply his concept of security for peace, which he pursues with the Palestinians, to the wider Arah context, choosing to forget in the process that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty clearly states that neither of the two countries would enter into an alliance against the other. But, if Netanyahu wants Jordan to fully distance Itself from its nation, then he is mistaken. While Jordan would like to see peace prevail between Israel and all the Arab countries, it cannot fail to see the current Israeli leadership putting all ohstacles possible in the path of peace.

The late King Hussein was a true Arah knight of peace. Peace was his cause hefore Netanyahu could spell the word. And peace is the legacy he left for us and for His Majesty King Abdullah. And while Netanyahu might not see this, we are sure that many peace-loving Israelis recognise

If Netanyahu was smart, he might even find in these warm inter-Arab relations, a path to a regional, just and lasting peace, although it is no longer clear that this is what he seeks.

Having said that, we might point out that if Israel is so concerned that Jordan remain in word and in deed the voice of moderation in the region, Netanyahu might do well not to incite his people against Jordan or eneourage feelings of ill will towards Israel among Jordanians with his own words.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

Al Ra't's Sultan Hattab said that in his first interview, His Majesty King Abdullah gave a clear idea about his basic directives, which were obvious in his transparent answers to Agence France Presse. Hattab added that King Abdullah's answers ended all doubts and speculations about several issues, including the country's political stability and Jordan's international relations. During the 46-year rule of His Majesty the late King Hussein, the Kingdom was always been concerned about its role in and relations with the Arab World, he said. King Abdullah's answer concerning relations with Iran was clear and refuted what has been said about the two countries ries, said Hattab, who added that the King also made clear Jordan's refusal to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. King Abdullah, whose thoughts and policies can be read, is calling for continuing peace and helping the Palestinians obtain their legitimate rights on their national soil, said the writer. Because King Abdullah is thoroughly aware of his father's approach and was close to him, he has enough expenence to lead Jordan to another stage full of achievements, especially economic ones, added Hartab.

Al Dustour's Mazen Saket said reducing the Jordanian-Iraqi protocol by \$80 million, an amount of great importance to local exports in need of a lot of efforts to compensate it for many losses, will increase the challenges now confronting Iraq. Dealing with the current \$200 million trade protocol requires serious and clear hilateral cooperation to overcome previous years' effects, added Saket. In recent years, the protocol focused on medicine and food, in accordance with the U.N. deal, and bureaucratic regulations caused inefficient exploitation of the protocol's money, according to the writer. Although these amounts were used for some facilities and to pay debts, reducing the protocol requires reconsidering the distribution of money to cover a wide-range of goods and facilitate regulations, said Saket. Clarifying the protocol's general objectives for Jordanian producers is an essential in implementing the protocol. Reassuring local producers by creating stable policies is a basic requirement to improve the protocol's efficiency, said Saket

# More than meets the eye

A FRIEND told me over the phone to the average, unknown, non-VIP mature than King Abdullah. the last week that Jordan "seems to have sprung back to its feet very quickly after King Hussein. Your new king has surprised many by easing so smoothly into position, and proved wrong many Middle Eastern pundits in several world capitals."

I guess that summarises it all for Jordanians and the rest of the world that the "transition" of power after the death of King Hussein that everyone feared would be chaotic and painful has not only been smooth hut effec-

On a personal level, His Majesty King Abdullah has done everything to endear himself to Jordanians. including his recent visit to the Dar Al Bir orphanage. his sentimental expression as conveyed by his visit to the tomb of Queen Alia with HRH Haya and Ali, his personal condolences to the Habashneh tribe in Karak regarding the death of their precious son (an F15 fighter pilot who died last week when his aircraft crashed during a training exercise), and to the families of two Tafileh policemen killed in the highway shootout.

Indeed, these are the bumanitarian gestures that made King Hussein the King of his people too, and Jordanians are very happy and proud to see Hussein's son Abdullah following his father's steps, making every effort to reach

citizen.

On external fronts, we bave seen that the reaffirmation of Arab and international support pledged to Jordan after King Hussein's death is materialising, and King Abdullah is living up to the expec-tations of Jordan's supporters and friends; his image is a glowing one, described by one Saudi prince as the "apple of the Arab World's

King Abdullah bas emphatically showed that he is indeed a "chip of the old block" by the skilful answers be provided in his first interview after assuming office. He made clear that Jordan's policy has not changed one iota in the post-Hussein era, reaffirming that Jordan would not allow itself to be a springboard for external elements to interfere in the affairs of other states, and the Kingdom wants to maintain cordial relations with all countries based on mutual respect and non-interference in

each other's internal affairs. In the same interview, the King also closed the door on speculation over his recent changes in the Armed Forces by stating that the moves were in line with his vision of reforms in the military rather

than a "cleaning up."
We all know the changes gave rise to speculation that they were somehow related to concerns that King Hussein had cited in one of his last letters. For someone less that Baghdad has realized that a

question of changes in Armed Forces opened the door for suggestions and implied affirmations, but the King has refused to be drawn into that. Instead, he put his perspective and approach forward. leaving little room for speculation and suggestions. Again, a flash of the brilliance that King Hussein had while confronting the media and which had made him so dear to everyone to the extent that eveo those who are no longer in Jordan, sent letters of condolence remembering the compassionate human side of our late Monarch.

The long line of Arab and for-eign dignitaries who have been flowing to Ragbadan and Bab Al Salam Royal palaces should definitely be seen as the continuing goodwill and reaffirmation of support for King Abdullah on the Arab. regional and world scene. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have lived up to the expectations of brotherly Arah relations by extending financial support to keep the Jordanian economy stable, and the U.S. has moved to accelerate additional aid to the Kingdom through the constitutional procedures that are obligatory for such help.

In our immediate vicinity, both Syria and Iraq have signalled that they have no interest in destabilise Jordan. The renewal of the annual trade agreement by Iraq is a sign

Jordanian **Perspective** 



#### Dr. Musa Keilani

strain in des with Jordan is not in its hest interests and it is better to cooperate with Amman rather than alienating it.

Similarly, the visit to Amman on Thursday by Syrian President Hafez Assad's son, Bashar, was also a reaffirmation of a Syrian message that Damascus wants to maintain strong ties with its neigh-

King Abdullah reciprocated by according a big welcome for Basbar Assad, hy sending no less than the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, who comes second in line in protocol after the prime minister, and three ministers to receive him. That should be a message for Damascus that Jordan bears no ill-will towards Syria and is willing to reciprocate all the

goodwill Syria has for the Kingdom regardless of political differences.

Featur

By Berran Win

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In general, the stars are shining bright for King Abdullah, and perhaps the time is also opportune for the Monarch to undertake the much-needed sweeping changes regarding the abhorrent, repressive press law, a campaign against the Jordanian corruption sharks, who recently have developed talons and fangs through their manipulation of our bureaucracy.

Many of us remember King Hussein's fight against bureaucracy when he made the offer to our civil servants in early 1997: Those who don't want to put their heart and mind to work may please excuse themselves from their positions, if only because they impede others who are serious and dedicared. King Hussein even offered those who volunteered to stay home a conunued salary, meaning they would be for not hampering the work of others. That message clearly indicated King Hussein's understanding and approach to hureaucracy in Jordan.

With the overwhelming support Jordanians have expressed for King Abdullah and assurances of stability of the Jordanian economy, perhaps it is the right time for him to launch that mucb-needed cleansing process in the Jordanian administration. It is never too late.

# The U.N. in the New World Order: Passive-observer status

WANTED: GLOBAL organisation of sovereign nations, committed to peacefully solving international disputes, promoting harmony world-wide, and upholding the highest ideals of welfare and human rights. Previous applicants need not apply.

It may not be much longer before readers begin seeing an advertisement similar to the one above in the finer international publications such as Jane's Weekly, Newsweek, and MAD magazine. A number of recent events may indicate that the United Nations, barely 50 years old, seems to bave hit its mid-life crisis particularly hard and looks to be heading for an early retirement. Variously regarded as an organisation that provides legitimacy to the policies of the United States (those with opinions differing from those of the U.S.), a biased nusiance obstructing regional hegemony, land grahs and "security" zones (Israel and Micronesia), and a shadowy union bent on uodermining U.S. sovereignty with armies of evil black helicopters and military vehicles (American conspiracy theorists), the U.N. has passed the point of being merely a hody that passes meaningless resolutions and is now marching towards passive-observer status. Perhaps we are now at a stage where, in the tradition of Old Yeller, it would be more merciful to take the U.N. behind the woodshed and put it out of its misery.

One of the more hizarre of these recent events undermining what little is left of the U.N.'s authority is China's veto of the renewal of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Macedonia. Universally hailed for its effectiveness and actual value in maintaining stability in the former Yugoslav republic, the peacekeeping force will now technically be required to pack up and leave following the expiration of its mandate on Sunday. The reason behind China's veto, indeed the factor driving most of that nation's foreign policy, is Taiwan, a villanous, treacherous little island off the mainland hent on China's destruction. Macedonia, in a separate but equally bizarre episode apparently involving confused government members. decided to officially recognise Taiwan, thus bringing the wrath of China down upon it.

Now China, as an independent

Where he is, there will Paradise be.

nation, can be angry with another state, a renegade province, a quasicountry, or wbatever other term that may be applied to Taiwan. It can react in any peaceful manner it cares, on a bilateral level, to perceived diplomatic slights. But no matter how one chooses to look at it. China's decision to veto the Macedonia peacekeeping mission does not make sense. According to official Chinese policy. Taiwan is simply a "renegade" province, not an independent state. If this view is accepted, China is punishing a third country for what is in effect an internal matter. On the other hand, China used its seat on the Security Council to settle what should have been a hilateral score, damaging in the process broader peace efforts in a troubled region. Such abuse of power, of which China is by no means the only guilty party, is not reassuring for the smaller, weaker countries of the world that look to ing their own agendas at the the U.N. for evenhanded treatment in disputes with more powerful

If Cbina contributed in a somewhat strange, inscrutable manner to the deterioration of the United Nations, Israel can always be counted on to help out in a much more direct manner. The latest action in the long Israeli campaign to carve its own niche in the decaying environment of the U.N. community involved the seizure of the village of Arnoun in southern Lebanon. It provoked less of an outcry than China's move, too. Just string up a little barbed wire around an area already deserted by inhabitants fearful for their lives, move in soldiers, and count on the usual silence from the rest of the world. If a Lehanese complaint ever even makes it to the U.N., another resolution calling on Israel to abide by international standards and withdraw from occupied territory will be issued, only to be ignored. Perhaps China can take its cue from Israel and put an end to the pernicious threat Taiwan poses once and for

If the idea of an international community of states is to be preserved, there must be an overhaul of the United Nations' structure. This must he done in such a manner to ensure that certain countries cannot use the U.N. as a means of further**Out of Order** 



#### **Brian Brown**

expense of the rest of the world. The most fundamental issue, however, remains putting into action resolutions and documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that have already been agreed upon. A number of U.N. agencies have done immeasurable good for the common benefit of bumanity. But unless an effective mechanism can be developed to resolve political crises, such as those Africa and the Balkans have witnessed over the past two decades, before they explode, it may become necessary to start thinking about a replacement to the organisation the League of Nations, and increasingly, the United Nations bave failed to be.

RECOMMENDED READING: Farenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury. This classic centres around the activities of a fireman in the nottoo-distant future. But this fireman doesn't put out fires, he starts them, using books as the fuel. Bradbury depicts a future society in which books and most types of useful knowledge are outlawed. The fireman, however, falls prey to tempatation and begins reading books instead of burning them, eventually becoming an outlaw himself. Another interesting view of a totalitarian future.

## Jordan's opposition: All bark and no bite?

slamed the Jordanian opposition for barking without ever biting and called on those political parties to show solidarity with the government in this difficult period of bistory. These parties are required to offer more thant empty slogans, the goals of which are imposssible to achieve. They must issue applica-ble ideas which complement the government's efforts in areas where it could not quite reach but in the same spirit of polit- encourage public pressure ical statebood the country has undertaken, said writer.

Qallab cised opposition parties accross the Arab World for being good at criticism, but lacking in concrete actions. According to

the writer, oppo-

sition in Jordan has

granted by the Constituition — but they the do not have the right to keep its fingers out of the fire and still maintain their subjective criticism. The writer supported efforts to change the current one-man, one-vote electoral law and the

recently implemented press and pubication law which, said Qallab, is a sethack for democracy and personal freedoms in Jordan. Calls to change the press and publication and elecotoral laws are legitimate rights and everybody must continue releotless efforts to change those two laws. However, it is not legitimate to criticise for the sake of criticising only said the writer. Such unjustified actions will only lead to isolating those parties, leaving the opposition in one valley and the rest of the country in another, said the writer. Qallab criticised what he described as voices which call on the Jordanians to learn from some Arab systems described as democratic but in reality far removed from a true democratic system.

Dustour's Oreib Rintawi said the only way for Israel to avoid losing more soldiers in South

Al Ra'i's Saleh Qallah Lebanon is through negotiation with Lebanon and itself to a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon which would guarantee Israel's safety. Israel cannot, under current circumstances oblige Syria and Lebanon to have separate peace talks even if it attacks Lebanon's infrastructure or attacking the country as it did in 1982. Israel has two choices: either to continue losing more human life in Lebanon which would or to unitaterally draw from Lebanon

and the Golan which Israeli leadership still considers

> able. The writer predicted the 🖷 that Israeli occupation South

Lebanon will

unaccept-

continue through the Israeli the right to criticise the elections in May, leaving government — a right the door open for more adventures for the sake of more votes.

> Ra'i's Tareq Massarwah commented on Europeao efforts to eod the ethnic war in the former Yugoslavia. He said whether or not Europe heat Ugosalvia or extended the grace period does not make any difference either to the security of Euorpe or to the lives of the Alhanians or even the autonomy of Kosovo. Destruction will not lead to the achievement of legitimate rights and it will not grant peace. Even if the two fighting parties succumb to the world's demands this will not equal a committment to international legitimacy or human rights, said the writer. The writer questioned the reason behind Germany's wish to divide their country and letting Slovania or Croatia away. He also questioned the United States' rush to divide Yugoslavia into five countries. He also woodered why the carnage of Bosia and Herzegovinia lasted for almost three years until the rest of the world decided to do somthing about it.

# Letters to the editor

Letters of condolence

1 WISH to offer my deepest sympathy to Jordan and her people on the death of King Hussein Ben Talal. His Majesty was a great man and inspirational leader who brought Jordan through some terrible times, and has shaped a nation of

which he and all Jordanians can be proud. May God grant his courage to his people; his wisdom to his son; and his example to the world.

> Ken Robertson Scarborough, Western Australia

1 WOULD like to convey my condolences to the Jordanian people. I want to tell you how badly I feel about the death of His Majesty late King Hussein.

As an American, who bad the privilege of meeting him once, he was a most remarkable man.

May God bless you all. With all due respect;

Skip West Florida, USA E-mail contacts: skippwest 69

# Dispelling stereotypes

By Teresa Watanabe

IT SEEMS a paradox: Muslim women are denied jobs and schooling in Afghanistan, cannot drive in Saudi Arabia and are murdered by relatives for suspected sexual indiscretions in "bonour killings" in places ranging from Jordan to Pakistan. But this group of Muslim women at a recent Koranic recitation class in Pasadena unanimously declares that Islam upholds perfect gender

Why? Because the word of God as revealed in verse after verse of the Koran and in the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad consistently lays out egalitarian teachings, these women say. They are a diverse group of Americans with beritages ranging from African and Palestinian to Egyptian, Sri Lankan and Irish, some sporting sweaters and slacks and others brilliantly coloured robes and head coverings.

The Koran gives women a list of specifically enumerated rights, from inheritance to divorce, that were startling advances at the time they were conveyed 1,400 years ago. But, the women say, fallible practices of men have consistently skewed the word and ignored women's God-given rights in order to prop up patriarchal cultures and repressive political regimes.

"Sometimes the relation between culture and religion gets so melded, it's bard to tease it out and see which is which," said Laila Al Marayati, a Glendale gynecologist whose Muslim Women's League sponsored the class on the beautiful but breathtakingly difficult art of Koranic recitation - an art traditionally less accessible to women than

The recent funeral of King Hussein of highlighted the confusion over women's status in Islam, which many Muslims say is

one of the most misunderstood aspects of their religion. In one of the more nated aspects of the funeral, Queen Noor and other women were not permitted to attend, in accord with what many news reports

called "Islamic tradition." That prompted the Muslim Public Affairs Council to issue a statement that the exclusion was "a cultural tradition garbed in Islamic clothing that varies from one place to another." It noted that the fundamentalist regime of Iran did not bar women from funerals and that several women witnessed the burial of the Prophet, including his fam-

In other reflections of the vast diversity of Muslim practices regarding women, Egypt has no female judges but such places as Syria, Morocco, Tunisia do; women are not allowed to lead mixed gatherings in prayer in most Muslim countries but can in Indonesia, said Yvonne Haddad, a Georgetown University professor of Islamic studies.

Albania and Bosnia don't give women any inheritance despite explicit Koranic instructions to do so, while most Muslim families ignore exhortations for chastity from both genders and expect it only from females,

Many of the most repressive practices ascribed to Islam are based on cultural traditions, social considerations or contested interpretations, many Muslims say. Even Saudi-trained scholars, for instance, agree that the Kingdom's ban on women driving is not grounded in the Koran or the Prophet's traditions. Instead it is a modern social measure aimed at preventing women and men from mingling in unsafe or unexpected circumstances - such as a woman's car breaking down. (Recent news reports suggest the Saudis may revoke their rule because the cost of providing 500,000 imported male chauffeurs for women is taxing the shrinking treasury). "Nothing in Islam prevents women from driving — the wife of the Prophet rode a carnel — but tradition overcame certain teachings of Islam," said Hussam Ayloush of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The treatment of women under the Talehan of Afghanistan is widely condemned by Islamic scholars as an affront to Islam. The fundamentalist regime has barred women from working and attending school, forced them to cover themselves from head to toe and imposed a blizzard of repressive rules, including no singing, loud laughs or wearing shoes that click lest the sounds lure men into "corruption."

Reports of beatings, rape and torture are rife - and transmitted to the world via the Web site of the Revulutionary Assn. of the Women of Afghanistan

Islamic scholars around the world bave plied the Taleban with opinions that such measures drastically violate Koranic teachings of respect and equality for women; Afgban native Wais Al Qarni was so incensed, he says, that be fired off a letter to the Afghan Embassy in Washington but never received a response.

They are bearing women, preventing them from learning, but Allah says men and women are one," said Al Qarni, 23, an Oakland College student studying criminology.

The misuse of Islam to jusofy sexism bas prompted the Muslim Women's League and other organisations to urge women to directly study the Koran and the Propbet's traditinns to gain their own understanding of the egalitarian visinn laid out in them.

'Our maio message to women is that our religion is from God and not buman beings, and don't accept any intermediaries hetween you and Gnd," said Sharifa Alkhateeb of the Washington-based North American Council for Muslim Women.

The organisation works to educate Muslim women and combat dismal public stereotypes that they are "controlled by men, don't think clearly, are probably battered and, if they cover their heads, can't speak English," Alkhateeh said.

Similarly, the Muslim Women's League sends out speakers, sponsors sports camps for girls, organises Koranic study groups and issues position papers highlighting Islam's egalitarian teachings ranging from women's legal rights to their spiritual roles.

Unlike the Bible, Al Marayati said, the Koran does not hold that Eve was made from Adam's rib or tempted him into sin: both were created equally, both erred, both were banished and both were forgiven.

The Islamic texts also sing the praises of strong and noble women, from the Prophet's wife to the Queen of Sheba to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and notes that women battled in the Propbet's armies, beld positions of religious leadership and worked in business and commerce.

The Koran condemns female infanucide, a common practice in pre-Islamic Arabia, and details a long list of women's rights: to own property, engage in business, choose a marriage partner, divorce, claim inberitance. receive education and be treated with respect and dignity, Alkhateeb said.

Alkhateeb and others say that many practices seen as repressive by non-Muslims are in fact liberating — such as wearing bead coverings and other modest clothing.

"The main reason we wear a bead covering is to set ourselves apart from males and insist they observe us as human beings, with ideas and concepts, rather than be distracted hy bair and perfume and make-up," Alkhateeb said. Still. she said, numerous Muslim American women have been denied jobs by airlines, restaurants, even universities because of their attire.

"There is such a horrible negative image associated with the scarf: of ignorance, dirty hair or terrorism," Alkhateeb said.

Talibah Jilani of the Kamilat women's organisation based in Mountain View said other seemingly sexist practices should be viewed in context: Dictates for male relatives to travel with women, for instance, were made during the time of widespread war and banditry and not only protected them but also freed them from the burden of carrying luggage and the like. Even polygamy, she said, was originally sanctioned as a compassionate way to support war widows wbo migbt otherwise be forced into prostitution or poverty. Still, Muslim women acknowledge that a great gap too often exists between Islam's ideal regarding women and their actual treatment. For instance, all three women's organisations are tackling domestic violence, as significant a problem in their community as nationwide.

In one limited study, Alkhateeb's group found about 10 per cent of Muslim leaders reported instances of domestic violence; a more extensive national survey is currently under way. The Muslim Women's League is planning a conference on the issue this year.

"I think more women are saying we need to wake up, learn to educate ourselves, be more active in the community and bave our voices heard," said Fatima Casb, a Muslim Women's League member who converted to Islam from Catbolicism 22 years ago.

# Squatters left out in the cold in Egypt

By Cynthia Johnston

JUST WEEKS after the birth of his first son. 27-year-old Mohammad Khalil found himself locked in jail while government bulldozers razed his childhood home.

"We have no protection." said his wife. Fadila Al Sayyed, 23, holding their

Like nearly 12 million other Egyptians, according to govemment figures. Khalil's father built the family home about 20 years ago - illegally — on a vacant plot of land.

Families like his face uncertainty as Egypt embarks on a project to improve most of the country's 400-600 shanty-

Some will be destroyed altogether.

In November, Khalil's house was among 67 flattened by bulldozers. Residents say they were razed to widen a road. Fearing trouble. Khalil was detained by the authorities as the heavy machinery flattened his family home.

Homeless and cold. Khalil. his wife and baby now take shelter in a makeshift shack with a dirt floor just metres away from where their old home once stood. Some scrap wood, a plastic mat and weathered shutters salvaged from his demolished home protect them from the wind. Lawyers voluoteering for

many as 2.000 nearby homes may also be demolished. Young head to city in search of work. The government estimates that a fifth of Cairo's population live in 70 shantytowns. Most of the squatters are the families of factory

the squatters, who are suing

for compensation, say as

countryside to look for work. As farmland along the banks of the Nile and the delta grew scarcer with each successive generation of farmers inheriting less land, young people

workers who moved from the

set off for the cities in search

of jobs.
They work — often as maids or in factories - for low wages. A working couple may make only 200-400 pounds (\$58-\$117) a month.

"They will look for any cheap housing. When they don't find it in the city proper, they will go to a nearby empty lot and put up a sback," said Saddeldine Ibrahim, President of the Ben Khaldun Centre development

Over time, the buildiogs became more permanent. Khalil's father planted grapes and fig trees.

"The unmarried got married and had kids. Their small children grew into big children. They went to elementary school, secondary school, university." said Ahmed Al Banna, 55, an iron and steel worker who is the Helwan self-appointed group's spokesman.

Families began to earn more money, although few earned

enough to pay for a down payment on a new flat. Instead of moving, they simply kept improving their homes.

Most of these settlements are structurally sound," said Hussein Al Gibaaly, bead of the housing ministry's general organisation for physical planning.

They are built with bricks and reinforced concrete. These are not like shacks or mud. Compared with squatter settlements in other parts of the world, they are good," he

Government concentrates on war effort for years, the government ignored the shantytowns and they continued to grow as greater Cairo's population swelled to an estimated 16 million.

The government, Gibaaly said, had other priorities. "We were engaged in war

with Israel and much of the budget was for military resources," be said referring to four wars with Israel

between 1948 and 1973.

It was not until after the last war in 1973 that Egypt could face its bousing problem, Gibaaly said. Yet, well into the 1980s, rural migrants continued to flood into Cairo at a rate of about 150,000 a year.

Islamist squatter 'republic' prompts action the catalyst for change came in 1992 when the government discovered a group of Islamists had taken over the Isquatter slum of Imababa near central Cairo and formed a "republic," Ibrahim said.

More than 12,000 troops retook the slum by force. "It was like a showdown."

At about that time, the government started making plans to develop the sbantytowns, extending water mains and sewers, paving roads, and building schools. Since then, it bas spent more than 700 million pounds on infrastruc-

Ibrahim said.

turė. The government has built 18

new cities around Egypt to absorb the masses. Five years ago. 30 per cent of the 180,000 flats in those cities lay vacant. Now, Gibaaly said, the government bas trouble keeping up with demand.

Some 44 additional cities

are being planned to accom-modate 20 million more people by the year 2017, be said. Ibrahim says about 65 per cent of Egypt's sbantytowns are slated for improvement. The rest — the eyesores, those on land the government

wants to use, those encroaching on Egypt's ancient monuments and those deemed too derelict to fix - are to be moved or completely razed. He says the project is about halfway complete. Families whose bomes are

demolished are entitled to a new flat or compensation of 5,000 pounds per room.

Al Banna says, however, be and his neighbours have yet to see any money. He estimates that some members of at least 54 families — mostly young men — remain bomeless.

"We live in chicken coops." Al Banna said.

Ibrahim said that if people are left homeless, that could counteract government efforts to root out extremism.

"The future is bleak for many of them. They become easy prey for vice and extremism," be said. "When youngsters see their bouses demolished, they get very angry. It is easy for them to be recruited by criminals or extremists." Khalil said he no longer works because be is afraid to leave his wife and baby on the

"We want houses. We want flats. It's a bard situation. Maybe they will give us flats. maybe. But when will the help come?" Al Banna said.

## The Saturday Crossword

TWO-TIMERS

By Robert H. Wolfe, North Woodmere, New York

95 At any time 96 "The Planets"

monkey 107 Two images? 110 Alt.

110 Alt.
111 Enthusiastic
112 \_avis
113 Ascended
114 Challenge
115 Pipe bends
116 School on the
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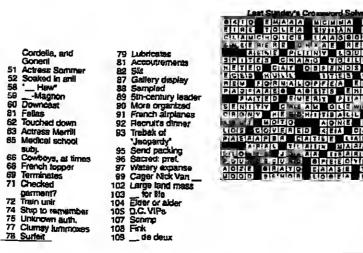


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# Iraq seeks cure for medical black market

By Dominic Evans Reuters

IRAQ WILL introduce medical radoning next year to curb a black

market in medicines which bas drained the sanctions-hit government's already limited resources, a senior official said.

Deputy Health Minister Khalid Jamil Al Khayyat said the planned system would limit the number of times people claim medicines for nominal prices at clinics around the сошиту.

"We are trying to ensure that the medicine gets to the patient," Khayyat told Reuters in an interview. "If you go round the streets in Iraq now you will find people selling medicine." He said currently there were few measures to prevent people claiming medicines at virtually no cost and selling them on to needy patients for a profit when government supplies dried up.

There is a big demand at the clinic. Because of the situation people started using this as a tool for making business... A lot of medicine may go to the wrong hands, but it is not easy to control," he said.

Iraq currently buys over \$200 million worth of medicines and medical equipment every six months under the oil-for-food accord with the United Nations, aimed at alleviating the worst effects of sanctions.

But the programme is plagued with delays, both inside and outside Iraq. United Nations observers say many clinics run out of medicines before

Doctors say they are still desperately short of supplies after eight years of war and sanctions, which increased malnutrioon and devastated water and sanitation systems, raising people's

suscepobility to disease. Khayyat said from next year everybody would be issued with six cards annually, each granting a visit to a clinic to buy medicine at a nominal

He said the system imposed limits but was flexible enough to meet genuine needs of those who required extra medicine.

Chronic patients would be exempted and cards could be exchanged between family members. After they were used up people would have to pay for medicine — but still with substantial government assistance.

per cent, as opposed to about 99 per cent for the first six visits," Khayyat He said the shortage of medicines was heightened by delays in supplies of medical equipment which Iraq

"It will still be subsidised about 90

blames on U.S. and British envoys in the United Nations Sanctions Com-Problems with medical distribution inside Iraq, which he linked to lack of spare parts also held up in the U.N.

committee, made things worse. A U.N. report said of the \$421 million worth of medicine which bad arrived in Iraq by November under the oil-for-food deal, only \$185 million bad been distributed to "end-

U.N. observers say a storage centre the size of three football pitches is filled with medicines in the Iraqi cap-

Khayyat said the government currently bad perbaps three months supplies of some medicines in central stores, but lack of regional stores and transport made distribution difficult.

"We have a sbortage of trucks and a shortage of tyres. The problem with distribution is also the number of items... Wa're talking about 2,000 or 3,000 medicines and related materials," he said. "So we're really talking about a big problem." Degradation of health facilities, from X-ray equipment to sewage pumps, had cononued and patchy repairs rarely lasted more than a few months.

Over the long term Iraq would bave to tackle the "wrong medical practices" which he said had affected the work of health administrators and doctors because of lack of supplies.

"Doctors started trying to do things without relying on basic medical procedures so now when we get the material, they are used to doing things without the established procedure." Iraq could need \$2 billion just to rehabilitate medical equipment, or five times the total value of money allocated annually to the entire health sector, including medicines, under the oil-for-food deal, Khayyat said.

"This is a very rough estimate. maybe we need more."

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MAJOR CURRENCIES AGAINST JORDAN DINAR

## Senior Iraqi official calls for strengthening ties with Jordan

EAGHDAD (AFP) - official INA news agency. Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said Thursday that Baghdad hopes to expand economic and trade cooperation with

"Cooperation between Jordan and Iraq is well established and developed and the Iraqi leadership is serious about continuing it in ell domains," said Ramadan, qunted by the

His comments came following a meeting here with Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad

Saleh Hourani, who arrived here Wednesday for talks with Iraqi officials as well as a meeting of the joint Iraqi-Jordanian Commis-

Jordan, which has no known crude reserves, has already agreed to import 4.8 million tonnes of Iraqi crude in 1999 as in past years, around half of which is delivered free while the rest sells for more than the

current market price.
The bilateral trade deal has been exempt from U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Jordan relies entirely on Iraq, its main trade partner, to meet its oil requirements.

## Hoss reassures foreign investors

REIRUT (AFP) - Lebanese Frime Minister Salim Hoss tried to reassure foreign investors, saying his government had a clear economic policy and would stick to the liberal stance of its predeces-

"We do not ad-lib. We have a very well throught-out policoncerning foreign investors and private enterprises which we have submitted to parliament," he told

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Friday's Puzzle Solved

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He said that any uncertainty about his government's econamic options was "completely unjustified."

government will respect all the commitments and contracts that have been signed and are currently being implemented," he said, but did not rule out renegotiating some deals in order to increase the state's share of

"Negotiating does not mean vinlating." he said.

He was also keen to reassure investors about their tax liabilities, saying: "Company tax is 10 per cent maximum, and we have no intention of changing that."

Hoss also repeated his intention of simplifying the formalities and procedures for foreign investors as demanded by the World Bank and the European Union.

Help us put a smile on a Needy Child's face "In Eid Al - Adha Al-Mobarak"

### EU urges tariff-free export treatment for world's poorest countries

GENEVA (AFP) — The made at the end of the so-European Union (EU) called Uniguay Round of Thursday urged industri- world trade negotiations, alised countries to remove all duoes nn imports from the world's poorest nations before a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting in November, a senior EU official

The EU had already pledged tariff-free treatment for the world's leastdeveloped countries in

At a special session of the WTO's executive body, the General Council, the EU said it would push for major industrial tariff negotiations to be on the agenda of a new round of trade liberalisation negotiations which are due to be launched at the WTO meeting in Seattle.

The EU is seeking the elimination of peak tariffs in all sectors, which are considered much too high despite successive global tariff-cutting initiatives. It's difficult to justify in

1999 that we maintain tariff levels of 30 to 40 per cent on textiles and clothing, the official said. Such exports are the mainstays of many developing countries' export economies.

In addition to commitments to open markets in agriculture and services. the EU says it will press for the inclusion of new areas in the Seattle round.

Exchange Rates

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These range from liberal-isation of investment to rules on competition and trade facilitation, the official said.

Greater transparency and predictability of investment rules would attract badly needed capital to faltering emerging economies and improve growth prospects, the EU argues.

A set of clear competition rules would benefit consumers, small and mediumsized companies and stimulate competition, the official said.

On trade facilitation, the idea was to negotiate rules to provide guidance for countries to cut bureaucratic procedures. "Some countries don't even try to import because of red tape," the official said.

A new 'Millenium' round would have to address a broad spectrum of interests. The sectoral approach has "exhausted" the

WTO members have been asked to table concrete proposals for subjects they want on the trade round

## Taiwan economic growth hits 15-year low in 1998

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan's economy grew 4.83 per cent last year, the slowest pace in 15 years, as a world economic downturn and the Asian financial crisis took their toll on the trade-driven island, officials have said.

But the growth was still. good enough for Taiwan to rank world number 15 for economic expansion, and it only trailed China and Vietnam in the region, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) said.

An official from the agency also noted that Taiwan's economic performance last year surpassed that of the other three Asian "tigers" — Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea which are all officially in recession.

Taiwan's growth came in below the 5.07 per cent forecast by the government. The gross domestic product (GDP) totalled \$262.3 billion, the agency official said.

He said the Asian financial crisis and a global economic downturn had contributed to the slower growth, which was the lowest since the economy grew 3.55 per cent in 1983. Economic growth in the last three months of 1998 was 3.71 per cent, the low-

est during the year. The DGBAS forecast this year's GDP growth amid a slow world economic recovery.

Taiwan's economy grew 6.77 per cent in 1997.

The average per capita income in 1998 was \$12,040, slightly down from 1997's record high of \$13,303.

The forecast for 1999 was of \$13,016.

The island's annual consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.68 per cent year-to-

# **Daughter to Summers:**

TOKYO\_(R) — U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers school-age twin daughters were keen to give him advice on how to cope with Brazil's financial cri-sis, he told Japanese National Press Club

officials on Friday. Summers was trying to spend some lime with his family one

received an unexpected phone call about the Brazilian crisis, he said as he entertained Press Club officials remarks which could be heard by reporters.

Daddy, just give them the money!

Seeing her father move towards the phone, Summers said one of his daughters perked up and said, daddy, just give them the money!

And if he did not

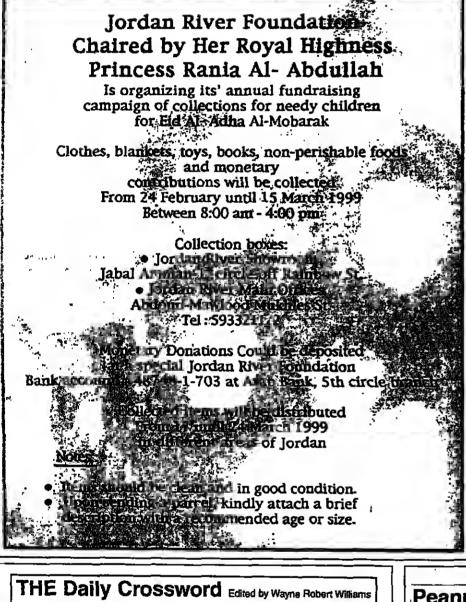
THE BETTER HALF.

GLASBERGEN

have the money right away, he could raise taxes, she added,

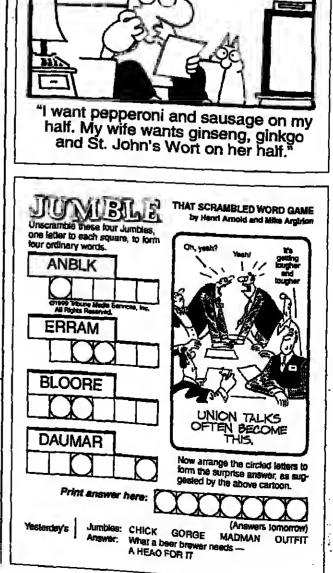
according to Summers. Summers said he had started to explain that economic problems were not that easy to solve, when the other daughter jumped in to scold her twin: "He's given money before. and they wasted it!"

By Glasbergen









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Birthstone of February

#### Jordan-U.S. Business Partnership invites firms to benefit from its services

\*\* THE BUSINESS community in Jordan gained an important new addition to its arena in January 1999. It is the Jordan-U.S. Business Partnership (JUSBP) whose programme is operated by the International Executive Service Corps (IESC). IESC, based in Stamford, Connecticut, USA, is a nonprofit organisation that provides technical assistance and training to private sector firms and trade organisations in

& February 27, 194

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the developing world.

The JUSBP is a joint initiative of United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) mission that has been operating in Jordan since 1949, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) of Jordan. The Industrial Development Directorate (IDD) of the (MIT) is acting as the counterpart of the JUSBP.

The programme, which covers a fouryear time span, has a budget of \$15 million. JUSBP has multiple objectives pertaining to the continued development of Jordan's private sector through providing technical assistance, consulting services and training to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); to local business support organisations

(BSOs), i.e. 'trade associations."

JUSBP's efforts will concentrate on empowering the SMEs, which constitute the vast majority of Jordan's private sector, to enhance their own productivity and competitiveness in nontraditional international markets and in the more open domestic market of the future, while meaningfully increasing employment opportunities

Jordanian workers. BSOs are a vital link to future efforts

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have a grand trine in

fire signs this weekend, but be careful of accidents. There's

one square to Mars that could cause a breakdown, so if you

are going to do something risky, make sure you've taken all the precautions. By and large, it looks as though trying something new or unusual should turn out very well: Go for

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) How are you going to get-

out of a situation tht makes you uncomfortable without hurting anyone's feelings? Well, it might not be possible. You

might simply have to put your own your needs and those of

your family first. You can only take care of so many people

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have so much to do, you

may not know if you're coming or going. There are more

invitations than you can possibly accept, so you'll have to

choose. You could stop at each place for a few minutes, but

most likely you'll have to disappoint somebody. Don't be

dismayed. Perhaps ynu can schedule them for tomorrow. CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) Looks like you're interest-

ed in shopping for an expensive item. You're willing to do

more work to make the money, and that might be necessary.

If you can get a second job today, you might as well take it.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) A couple things might get

away from you today. Maybe a partner wants to do yeer from

what you'd planned. A household item might need fixing. A

new friend might be just 100 bizarre. But these are all easily

managed by a person as confident as. Travel, romance and

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) Somebody who's

very demanding seems to think you can do everything at

once. Well, why should you? What are you getting out of this

deal? It had bener be good, or you have permission to sim-

ply duck out. On the other hand, if you're preparing your place to entenain a persnickety crowd, use this tension as

LTBRA: (September 23 to October 23) There's plenty of fun to be had this weekend, especially if you're willing to do a little work. Looks like a combination of the two is your best entertainment option. Does a neighbour need a ban raised or

something? If you and a friend get together, a job that's way

hard work, grim determination and maybe even sheer terror.

All in all, you've done quite well. Face it, you've got the energy of 10 normal human beings, and probably the cre-

ativity of 20. Today, you have permission to vegetate. Let

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you go

one place, you won't be able to go the other, and you'd like

to be in both places at once. Well, unless you can manage to

clone yourself, you'll have to choose one. Opt for the one

with the most love and affection and fun and games. If both

have the same amount, go with the one you feel passionate

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) This is a great

day for an open house. If you were selling your place, you

could get a really high price for it today. Maybe you'll sell

momething else at a good price now. With the moon in Leo.

people won't want to barter much. They'll just pay whatev-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) You may feel like

you're playing ping pong. You make a good shot and the

other guy hits it back at you, and then it's your turn again. You're sharp, you're putting on a good show, but are you

winning? Just stop worrying about it. The day could end

with both of you having a great time, and neither actually tri-

PISCES: (February 19 to March 201 This is an excellent day

to clear out your closets, your attic, your basement and wher-

ever else you've got stuff stashed away that never gets used

100 hard for one person could turn into a reason for a party. SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) You've had a rough week, with moments of brilliance interspersed with

sports are all highly favoured, if that gives you any ideas.

The extra cash could make what otherwise would take years

at one time. Set your priorities.

take only months instead.

somebody else entertain you.

er you ask. So ask top dollar.

of their member firms by providing continuing technical assistance, that include business planning, market research. plant layout, licensing and franchising, meeting quality standards such as ISO 9000 and, raising awareness towards a "Culture of Quality," through industrial extension programmes, computer-based activities, and other services.

Eligible Jordanian firms are invited and encouraged 10 apply for the different services of JUSBP which include consultation, seminars and other training courses. Most activities will be conducted in English by specialists from the U.S. although Jordanian consultants will also be employed to provide assistance. Cooperating firms will be expected to share some of the expenses of direct service to their companies.

The JUSBP operation in Amman is under the direction of Lewis P. Reade, a person well-known on the Jordanian business scene for his work with USAID. Reade holds a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Miami. He is joined in his work by Arun Walvekar, a recognised expert in quality assurance and standards. The other senior executive of JUSBP is Bassam Khatib, a veteran Jordanian businessman and government official.

Businessmen and factory managers who wish to obtain more information on the activities of JUSBP can call any of the following numbers:

Telephone 568-4308 Amman , Fax: 568-4266 Amman E-mail: Mail@JUSBP.org

Pakistan's

KARACHI (AFP) Pakistan's national carrier

airline posts

\$46.93m profit

Airlines (PIA) said Thursday

it posted an after-tax profit of

\$46.93 million in 18 months

from July 1997 to December

Plas Chairman Shahid. Khaqan Abbasi told a news conference the airlines

earned a profit despite a cur-

rency devaluation and credit-

freeze amid an economic cri-

sis in the wake of the coun-

The figure was a remark-

able achievement, he said, as

PIA had sustained a loss of

\$102.22 million during the

period from July 1996 to

"PIA's revenues increased

from \$711.57 million to

\$1.137 billion during the

But airline officials refused

to give a figure for the 1998

Abbasi attributed the profit

to a reduction in operational

costs, fuel prices, a change in

fuel policy, the closure of

non-profit off-line stations

and an increase in domestic

financial year on its own.

under review,"

June 1997.

Abbasi said.

try's nuclear tests in May.

International

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CAIRO AMMAN BK	2,650	2.520	4.91%	
BIL OF JORDAN	1.360	1,340	1.47%	By Amy Henderson
MINDEL EAST BL	0,980	0.940	4.08%	
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.510	1.490	-1.32%	AMMAN — A leading
THE HOUSING BK	2.890	2,880	-0.35%	
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.690	1.640	-2.96%	international securities
JO. GULF BK	0.700	0,670	4 29%	firm has given the
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IRBID ELECTRICITY	1.700	1.750	+2 94%
VEHICLES OWNERS	2.430	2.310	4.949
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JO. INT'L TRADING CENT	0,260	0.250	·3 85%
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	1,230	1,200	2.44%	sion, with politic
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VEGETABLE OIL	1,050	1,140	+8.57%	quantity" whose

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ı	NT'L CABLE	0.650	0.560	- 73
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JO, TRADING FACILITIES	0.380	0.420	+10,53%	
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AL - EKBAL	0.880	0.900	+2.27%	
ADVANCED PHAR	0.530	0.530	0.00%	
AL - SHARQ	1.060	1.050	-0.94%	
FALCON	1.150	1.090	-5.22%	
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# International securities firm ight prospects for n stock market

try's political and economic uncertainty as "excessively simistic."

While we do not mean to belittle the difficulties that the tragic death of King Hussein causes to Jordan and its people, we feel that the prospects for the economy bave significantly improved in the near term," said the Japanese Nomura, one of the world's top investment banking institutes. "Coupled with our market valuation and estimates, we continue to recommend investors buy Jordanian equities."

The death of the late Monarch initially soundabroad without ould face omic and grappling ment and suffering economic ension of King Throne outside pprehencal punescribing unkaown quantity" whose political

yet unproven. **MENA** 

Nomura's (Middle East and North Africa) Research Division, in a report entitled "Jordan After King Hussein — Concern is Overplayed," said, "King Ahdullah has inherited a relatively peaceful equi-librium in the region and in the country — his main task will be to maintain this equilibrium rather than to reinvent

the wbeel." "Concerns that the death of King Hussein will mark the beginning of a period of political uncertainty seem grossly misplaced," Nomura misplaced," stressed.

Nomura sites several reasons for its optimism, among them, the government's commitment to its economic policy, including the extension recently of Jordan's agreement with the

Additionally, Nomura said that pledges of financial aid from Jordan's friends was also a reassuring signal. Nomura concluded that fears of a return to populist economic policies and the collapse of the

dinar were unfounded. "So far this year, the Jordanian market has surprised pundits and we believe that it could deliver better returns this year compared to that of 1998," Nomura said. "From a macroeconomic perspective, foreign cur- ings rule multiple.

and economic skills were rency inflows in the from of aid should ease fears regarding the currency while earning announcements in March could again boost the market in the second quarter."

Nomura predicted that earnings growth for 1999 at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) would be "modestly lower than 1998, but will remain in the double digit range as recovery continues in the industrial sector."

Nomura predicts 1998 earnings growth, to be announced in March, to reach 1.3 per cent, compared to 4.3 per cent in 1997, and added that a further economic downturn should not prohibit investors from investing at the AFM since earnings growth for the AFM's largest banks and industries garner most of their earnings outside Jordan.

Therefore, Nomura said, a large portion of the market "is not directly impacted by the domestic economy due to the structure of the AFM."

The Nomura report also contended that the AFM discount associated with economic and political concerns "is unnecessarily high for Jordanian equities.

Stocks on the AFM have traded at an approximate 30 per cent discount to the MENA weighted average earn-

## Trading, prices rise at AFM

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Trading rose sharply at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week and the general price index recorded a 0.65 point increase as a result of the sudden and Arab Bank shares, a broker said Friday.

The stock market's figures showed the last week's trading volume at JD18.8 million compared to JD12 million during the previous week. The average daily trading amounted to JD3.7 million.

Despite a drop in the prices of most of sbares that were traded on the floor last week, the AFM's 60-sbare index closed at 182.100 points, up from 181.45 in the previous

Naim Nageeb, a broker at the stock market, indicated that trading in cement, Arab and National

banks' sbares accounted Arab for 65 per cent of the total trading volume.

Nageeb attributed the slight increase in the price index to the rise in the share price of the Arab Bank, the stock market's major blue-ship, which closed at JD218 up from JD215.

Shares of 85 firms were 52 companies recorded decline in prices, 12 registered increase while 14 remained unchanged.

The industrial sector ranked first with a trading volume of JD12.8 million, the bulk of which was recorded by the cement company following a deal between foreign investors.

The firm's share price closed at JD3.760, up from JD3.650 in the past

The phosphate company came second with a trading volume of JD1.1 million followed by the

Pharmaceutical 2 4 1 Manufacturing, trading volume amounted to JD642,465. The banking sector

ranked second with 22.8 per cent of the trading volume, 11 per cent of which was taken by the Arab Bank. The Jordan National Bank won 6.5 traded in the floor, where per cent of the trading vol-

The services sector recorded 2.2 per cent of the total trading, as the Jordan Electric Power Company ranked first among the nine firms whose shares were traded on the floor in this sector. Parallel market share

amounted to 6.3 of the total trading volume. Out of the shares of 24 firms that were traded in this sector, only 14 recorded increase in their share prices and 12 registered

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anymore. Get it out of your way so you can have the room for some other idea to sprout. All that old stuff is cluttering up your mind. Stop worrying and just pitch it. Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

# **Knicks beat Timberwolves** in overtime thriller

NEW YORK (R) - Allan Houston drilled a threepointer with 4.6 seconds left in overtime to lift the New York Knicks to their fourth straight victory, a 115-113 thriller over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday.

There were six lead changes in the final 1:41. A tip-in by Joe Smith put Minnesota up 113-112 with 27 seconds remaining.

All five Knicks touched the ball on the next possession, with Larry Johnson firing a pass from inside to Houston, who hit the threepointer with one second left ! on the shot clock.

"I wasn't expecting to get the shot like that, but the ball movement was excellent." Houston said. "We were finding the open man and it was just about execution."

Timberwolves attempted to set up Stephon Marbury, who forced the overtime with a rainbow jumper from the baseline with 2.2 seconds left in regulation. Marbury took a pass from Kevin Garnett, drove to the basket and had the shot swatted out of bounds by Marcus Camby with seven-tenths of a second

On the ensuing inbounds play. Garnett was open in the lane but missed a quick shot as the buzzer sounded.

Houston scored 22 of bis 26 points after halftime for New York. Johnson finished with 22 points and Patrick Ewing added 20 points and 11 rebounds for New York.

Garnett had 25 points and 14 rebounds. Smith added 20 and 16 for Minnesota, which had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Marbury collected 20 points, nine rebounds, nine assists and nine turnovers. New York's Charlie Ward

went\_ head-to-head with Marbury and had 18 points and 13 assists with five

Minnesota (8-3) could have equalled Utah for the best record in the NBA with a victory. Instead, New York (also 8-3) erased a 16-point first-half deficit to get its first win in four games against teams with winning records.

"Tonight was a big test for U.S. and we stood up to the challenge," said Ewing.

In Cbicago, Bulls first-year coach Tim Floyd finally gave the United Centre fans something to cheer about when he celebrated his 45th birthday with an ejection in a 98-80 loss to

the Philadelphia 76ers. With 10:16 remaining and the losses and frustration mounting, Floyd took out his anger on referee Bill Spooner, drawing two technical fouls in about 10 sec-

ATLANTA (AFP) - A

olympic park pecan tree

meant as a symbol of

longevity has died of rot, an

ironic summing up of the

current state of crisis in the

The 22.7-metre tree, one

of 90 that have perished

from disease in 953 days

since the Olympic torch was

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Olympic movement.

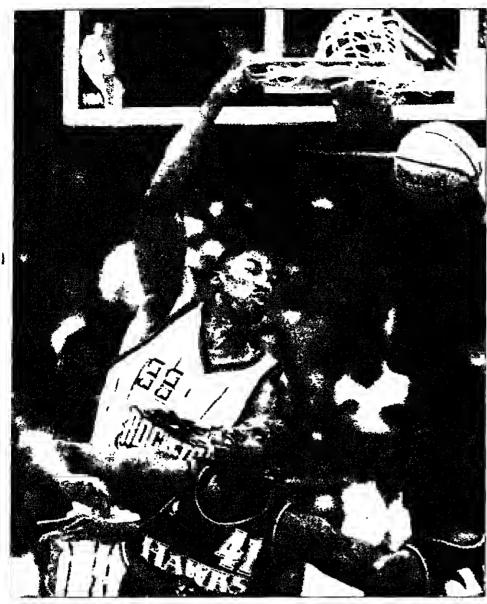
lit here, was replaced.

Whether or

International

centennial

100-year-old



Houston Rockets' forward Scottie Pippen slam dunks over Atlanta Hawks' Mark West (41) and Tyronne Corbin (33) during the second quarter of their game at the Compaq Center in Houston (Reuters phuto)

After being ejected, he came onto the court to condirected several expletives at Spooner before leaving to an ovation from the fans, who have not seen the Bulls win at home yet this season.

The Bulls fell to 0-6 at the United Centre after going 76-6 there the last two sea-, sons. Chicago tied a team record for consecutive home losses set in 1984 - the seabefore it drafted Michael Jordan.

Allen Iverson scored 33 points for the 76ers (7-5), who have won three in a row following a four-game losing streak.

In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Lakers (7-6) and interim coach Bill Bertka both moved above .500 with a 115-100 rout of the winless Clippers that snapped a three-game losing streak.

Dennis Rodman, who parshootaround, likely will see his first game action in the second leg of the home-inhome series with Clippers on Friday.

Cleveland.

Jackson bad a triple-double and the Indiana Pacers cboked off the Cavaliers down the stretch to rally for an 81-74 victory, their fifth

Jackson had 15 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists. Rik Smits scored 20 points for the Pacers, who closed the game with a 16-5 run.

In Houston, the Atlanta Hawks were without the injured Steve Smith and an Henderson while Scottie Pippen recorded his first triple-double for the Rockets. Somehow that added up to a 93-87 win for the Hawks.

Grant long started for the injured Henderson and had 20 points and 10 rebounds. Pippen had 15 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for

his 17th career triple-double but could not prevent the Rockets' first home loss in five games. In Washington, Chris Webber posted a triple-dou-

ble in his homecoming with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists as the Sacramento Kings snapped a three-game losing streak, 115-105 over the Wizards.

Webber, who led the Wizards in scoring and rebounding last season, made his first appearance at the MCI centre since being dealt to the Kings in the offseason for guard Mitch Richmond and forward Oris

In Vancouver, Jason Kidd recorded his fourth tripledouble of the season with 14 points, 12 rebounds and 16 assists as the Phoenix Suns rallied for a 94-86 victory over the grizzlies.

straight triple-double and 23rd of his career. He added six steals for the suns. He had been the only NBA player with a triple-double this season until Webber, Jackson and Pippen joined

him Thursday. In Dallas, Gary Trent scored eight of his 18 points during a decisive fourthquarter run and the Mavericks got their first back-to-back wins this season, 90-81 over the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets, who were denied a three-game winning streak, were dealt a blow when rookie centre Raef Lafrentz, the third overall pick in the 1998 draft, injured his left knee early in the first quarter.

## Tigana weighs up his

NICE (AFP) - Former France midfielder Jean Tigana said Thursday he could quit football in a fortnight but added that he would go abroad if he decided to stay in the

future

Tigana stepped down as coach by French First Division side Monaco in January after a mediocre season and categorically ruled out taking a job at First Division leaders Bordeaux.

Media reports said that TV Channel M6, in talks with Bordeaux, wanted Tigana to work for the club to develop the relationship between the team and the TV company.

But Tigana said: "There is no question of me going Girondins the (Bordeaux)."

He added: "Either I quit football for good or I will go to a foreign club."

Tigana said be was currently dividing between his family and his vineyard.

As a player Tigana was a great star for Bordeaux and also featured for Lyon and Marseille. Notably be was a member of the legendary French international midfield that won the 1984 European Championships alongside Alain Giresse, Luis Fernandez and the peerless Micbel Platini.

Following the resignation of World Cup winning coach Aime Jacquet last summer, Tigana was one of two coaches beadhunted to take charge of the France side. Auxerre's Guy Roux was the other.

But neither club would give permission to the French Football Federation (FFF) to approach the manager and in the end the FFF moved for Jacquet's No. 2, Roger Lemerre.

## Australian IOC member leaves to face Olympic probe

(AFP) SYDNEY Australian IOC member Phil Coles was on his way to Switzerland Friday to face a inquiry into the Salt Lake City Olympic bid scandal as new evidence emerged contradicting an explanation he has given.

Documents released by the Salt Lake City Committee Organising included details of a visit it organised for Coles, his partner and family to an exclusive ski resort six months after it won the bid to bost the 2002 Winter Games.

Coles bas insisted it was a private trip at Christmas, 1995, and that he was a guest of U.S. IOC delegate Jim Easton at his Deer Valley condominium.

But the Australian newspaper on Friday quoted Easton as denying he bosted the visit by Coles, adding: "I don't know wby be's saying that, but he didn't.

"I'd hate to get him into trouble, but the only time

Phil Stayed at my condo was in February or March of last year."

The itinerary of Coles trip, which the bid committee said cost more than \$9,000, detailed skiing excursions, three dinners with senior bid officials and a New Year's Eve party with Atlanta Games Chief Billy Payne and disgraced bid leader Tom Welch.

Coles. a former Olympic kayaker, has denied any wrongdoing and threatened legal action against the ethics committee investigating the bribes scandal out of Salt Lake City and against the media.

He issued a statement Thursday saying IOC rules did not apply to visits out-side the bid, whether before or after, and any suggestion of impropriety in the December 1995 visit was unfounded and wrong.

ABC Radio reported Friday that among 68 pages of material released by the Salt Lake City Organising Committee are thank you notes from Coles for the hospitality offered by the organisers.

A letter from Coles dated March 1993 refers to "warm and friendly people, wonderful hospitality, basketball, skiing, snowmobiling, who could ask for more?"

Receipts for thousands of dollars in free accommodation, complimentary basketball tickets and meals were also released. Olympic sources here said

Coles had left for Lausanne to answer questions by the 1OC committee, headed by IOC Vice President Dick Pound, which is holding informal hearings in Lausanne over the weekend to consider the future of 10 10C members implicated in the scandal.

He told reporters from Lausanne that Coles was expected to be one of the 1OC members coming to Lausanne at the weekend.



'Peace Roo' features on a poster designed by David Lancashire to symbolise reconciliation with Australia's Aborigines for the new millennium at the official launch of the limited edition Sydney 2000 Olympic posters in Sydney. The eight new SOCOG posters represent the distinctive styles of sume of Australia's leading artists such as Michael Leunig, Ken Cato and Paul 'Mambo' Worstead (AFP

# Olympic Games rot reflected in Atlanta

Ten 1OC mentbers are out and a dozen more are under investigation after Salt Lake officials spent \$1.3 million on cash payoffs, lavish gifts, paid holidays and other excesses to win the 2002

the Winter olympics. Here, despite admitted Olympic Committee's dry rot will rule breaking by an exend with a little pruning or Atlanta organising and bid require drastic measures is committee member plus still unknown, as is secrecy surrounding bid Atlanta's role in a bid corexpense records, the United ruption scandal that was States Olympic Committeeuncovered in Salt Llake plans no probe into the 1996

In response to an IOC request for information on the atlanta bid, the USOC has said there was no wrongdoing and it plans no probe into Atlanta organisers' activities.

"I hate to say what happened in Atlanta isn't as important as what happened in Salt Lake, but I don't think there is anything we would learn about Atlanta that would materially change the landscape," said USOC lawyer Blackmun.

on athletes and programmes than it is on a whole new investigation of an organisanon that doesn't exist any-

It does, but with a new name. The Georgia Amateur Athletics Foundation directors are the same people assembled for the original bid. Co-chairman Billy Payne was the organising committee chairman for the 1996 Olympics. Payne has refused to

release documents detailing

CINEMA

"Our money is better spent the successful \$7.8 million Payne to an organiser's post price limit and flights for the athletes and programmes bid for the centennial summer Olympics, saying no other games records are public and that some comments could

embarassment. The Atlanta constitution reported Thursday that the foundation paid payne \$975,000 for his personal collection of Olympic memorabilia, with more than \$600,000 used to pay off debts incurred when he was the volunteer bid leader.

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CONCORDE

Robert De Níro & Jen Reno .... in

RONIN

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORDE "2"

1991 up to \$767,000 in 1996, while such chummy payouts as his memorabilia sale are similar to deals that eroded the credibility of Salt Lake organisers, forcing four to resign.
The USOC's refusal to

investigate comes in the wake of comments by Charlie Battle, a former bid and organising member now in downtown development who said Atlanta's effort That non-paid work led included gifts over the IOC

members than allowed. 'We felt we conducted our

bid in the spirit of what we felt like were the guidelines given to us." Battle said. Of IOC members he said. "these people require, some of them especially, a good bit of care and feeding."

Atlanta bas its legacy from the Games. The former Olympic stadium has been renovated into a major league baseball park now named Ted Tumer field and

includes a giant soft drink bottle advertisement.

The city has more hotels, larger highways and new or renovated sport and bousing areas. Tumer's hotel property jumped in value after the centennial park was built next door. NBC, which paid \$3.5 billion for U.S. Olympic

broadcast rights to the next five Olympics, had a ratings bonanza with a U.S. Games. Having the Olympics in a U.S. city gave a boost to the nine of 11 major global sponsors who are U.S. based, each of whom pays \$40 to \$50 million every Olympiad to use the Olympic rings in advertisements.

Robert De Niro & Jen Reno .... in ODA

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Comedian A'del Imam .. in AL ZA'EEM

> Alwad Mahrous Shows: 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 Tha'a Al Wazir

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**ABDOUN** www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Cameron Diaz .... in

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Pantarii hits out i Tour de france route

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Burns takes lead in Safari Rally

12(2) (\$1) · \$\$\$P\$ min Farmed Burnet the small lead in the Min Rally from Subare Batter of a kasaan je · Finiand (f) er breday, Bures Wed to the top of the salerhand after the helm timed section rum of Natrobi and lies the count ahead of bear Carlos Sainz, Bot and champion Tommi Walmen suffered another ale and block to his hopes do third straight victory he warm and a seventh Batton for his Matsubishi tan Makmen, who won be here two rallies of the See a in Monte Carlo and Suntan, hast a massive 12 moule, after suffering Nuclearer for both rear has at the same time on te du a), reacheled roads MEan Actions.

<sup>§chumacher</sup> <sup>com</sup>pletes Grand Prix'

SARPIRIA (AFP)  $\eta_{\rm tchart}$ Schumacher completed five days of thing of Mugello on hurden with a successill imulation of a Grand hnx at the wheel of figure, new F399 car. Schumacher completed three very of 20 laps of the decan circuit, interpered with two stops for both fuel and tyres. leammate Eddie Irvine Na. meanwhile busy with photo session. The has final workout will Sunday at Fromo test driver Luca Badner before the cars are Packed off for Australia. The 1999 Formula One i March 7 at Melbourne.

# npic probe

#### Taipei, S. Korea enter Fed Cup **Group One final**

IN BRIEF

BANGKOK (AFP) Chinese Taipei and South Korea will meet in the final of the Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Group One on Saturday after they woo all their first round ties here. The winner of the Chinese Taipei-South Korea tie on Saturday will advance to the World Group Two/regional qualfying play-off in July. In the Asia/Oceania Group Two competition here. Singapore finished top of Pool A and Kazakhstan finished secood. Tajikistan and Pakistan finished first and second of Pool B wheo the qualifying round completed oo Thursday. In Friday's playoffs to determine who advances from Group Two to Group One oext year. Singapore beat Pakistan 2l, and Kazakhstan defeat-

#### Pantani hits out at Tour de France route

ed Tajikistan 3-0.

MADRID (AFP) ltaly's Tour de France champioo Marco Pantani hit out at this summer's route to keep the cycling public guessing over his participation in the 1999 race. The 29-year-old nicknamed 'il pirata' hecause of his shaved head, earring and colourful handanas, is a natural climber hut said this year's event favoured ume-trialers. "I won the tour last year with a course which was not favourable to me. I hoped for a better route this year hut it wasn't the case," Pantani told Madrid-based newspaper as on Friday. The tour is the most important in the world and because of that it must take the riders into

## in Safari Rally

account," he added.

NAIROBI (AFP) -Britain's Richard Burns took the overall lead in the Safari Rally from Suharu teammate Kankkuneo of Finland early on Friday. Burns moved to the top of the leader-board after the 105km timed secoon south of Nairohi and lies half a second ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz. But world champion Tommi Makinen suffered another massive hlow to his hopes of a third straight victory this season and a seventh in a row for his Missuhishi team. Makinen, who woo the first two rallies of the season in Moote Carlo and Sweden, lost a massive 12 minutes after suffering punctures to both rear tyres at the same time on the dusty, por-holed roads of East Africa.

#### Schumacher completes 'Grand Prix'

SCARPERIA (AFP) -Schumacher completed five days of testing at Mugello on Thursday with a successful simulation of a Grand Prix at the wheel of Ferrari's new F399 car. Schumacher completed three sets of 20 laps of the Tuscan circuit, interspersed with two stops for both fuel and tyres. Teammate Eddie Irvine was meanwhile busy with a photo session. The t399's final workout will be on Sunday at Fiorano with test driver Luca Badoer, before the cars are packed off for Australia. The 1999 Formula One season gets underway on March 7 at Melbourne.

## **SPORTS** Humbert sets new pole vault world record

STOCKHOLM (AFP) -Germany's Nicole Humbert set a new women's indoors pole vault record Thursday evening, posting a 4.56m

It beat the former mark of 4.55m, set by Australia's Emma George in Adelaide last year.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola had earlier set a oew world indoor record here in the 1000m.

Mutola posted a time of 2.30:96 — the previous best was 2.31:23, also set at Stockholm hy the same



German Nicole Humbert celebrates after setting a new women's indoors pole vault world record, at the indoor meeting, posting a 4.56m leap. It beat the former mark of 4.55m, set by Australia's Emma George in Adelaide last year (AFP photo)

## Van Roost advances in Paris

PARIS (AFP) — Dominique Van Roost of Belgium, a finalist twelve months ago, heat her jinx opponeot Elena Likhovtseva for the first time in five meetings to reach the semifinals at the \$520,000 Paris Indoor Open on

The third-seeded Van Roost, who had lost all four of her previous matches against the 23-year-old from Kazakhstan, finished with a flurry after a oervous first set to score a 7-5, 6-0 victory.

She now plays either World No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland or sixth-seed Amelie Mauresmo of France for a place in Sunday's final.

Van Roost, who has been eojoying a great start to 1999 by reaching the final at Auckland and theo a secood career grand slam quarter-final at the Australian Open, was heaten in last year's final here hy Mary

Pierce, who is oursing a shoulder injury, is not defending her utle.

Van Roost became the first Belgian player to he ranked in the world's top-ten last season. She is currently ranked eleventh.

Likhovtseva, who is playing sixth event of 1999, was a semi-finalist in Hanover last

## Krajicek moves into semis

LONDON (AFP) Holland's Richard Krajicek cruised into the semifinals of the ATP Tour event here Friday, heating Slovakia's Karol Kucera 6-1, 6-3 in just 53 minutes. The fourth seed thus

proved he is back to the sort Wimhledoo title in 1996. Kucera had no answer to

Krajicek's powerful serve and failed to force a single break point oo the Dutchman's service. In contrast Krajicek fired down 13 aces against the fifth seed.

It marked a return to form for the 27-year-old, who has struggled with knee problems over the last two years following his triumph at Wimhledon's All Eogland

Oo Thursday, British No. 2 Greg Rusedski restored Briosh fortunes at the ATP event in Battersea Park after Richard Krajicek compatriot Tim Henman's disappoioting exit late Wednesday night.

Third seed Rusedski prevailed 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in 81 minutes against former Australian Open champioo Petr Korda in what was something of a grudge



Yevgeoy Kafelnikov moved within one victory of deposing American Pete Sampras as World No. 1 when he hreezed past Zimbahwe's Byron Black 6-3, 6-2 in a one-sided affair.

Kafelnikov will become

the first Russian to top the standings if he wins his oext match with Sweden's Thomas Johansson.

Johansson had earlier heaten Italy's Davide Sanguinetti 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), 6-2 to book his spot in the

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# Davenport, Seles among 10 selected to U.S. Fed Cup squad

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AFP) — Lindsay Davenport, Monica Seles and sisters Venus and Serena Williams were among the 10 players selected to the 1999 United States Fed Cup team, captain Billie Jean King announced Thursday.

King also announced Davenport, who missed the semifinal loss to Spain last year, will play in the first-round match against Croatia in Zagreh April 17-18.

Lisa Raymond, Chanda Ruhin, Amy Frazier, Corina Morariu, Tara Snyder and Mary Joe Fernandez round out the U.S. Fed Cup pool, which is comprised of the top 10 ranked American

The concept of team sports is very important to me, and Fed Cup is the pinnacle in women's team tennis." King said. "By naming this squad of top Americans for Fed Cup, we can assemble the hest teams for each Ue. We are putting all of our efforts into hringing hack the Fed Cup to the

United States before the year 2000." Davenport, currently ranked second io the world, has been a member of the U.S. Fed Cup team since 1994 and played on the 1996 title-winning team. She has compiled a 21-2 lifetime record in Fed Cup play, including two wins in last year's first-round sweep of

Last year, Davenport captured her first grand slam singles title at the U.S. Open and hecame the No. 1 player in the world oo October 12, holding onto the top spot uotil February 7.

Seles has gone uodefeated in eight Fed Cup matches, all in singles. and was a member of the 1996 championship team. She has won nine Grand Slam titles, reached the final of last year's French Open and the semifinals at last month's Australian Open.

The Williams sisters were members of last year's learn, but did not com-

League

## Domestic aperitif before midweek Euro feast

PARIS (AFP) — A series of appetising clashes in Italy, Spain and Germany this weekend does not disguise the fact that many of the clubs will have one eye the midweek European programme

that follows. Top of the hill io Italy is the San Siro clash between Champions' League hopefuls Inter Milan and Juventus. Meanwhile, Fiorentioa face a stormy trip to Salernitana and Lazio will be battliog to stay top wheo they face Vicenza.

Inter, Manchester United next Wednesday, will use their likely attacking line-up at Old Trafford in Chilean Ivan Zamorano and Roberto Baggio, supported by French World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff.

Though Ronaldo's fitness remains a mystery all eyes will be on the subs' bench. If Ronaldo comes on at the end, alarm bells should start ringing in Manchester. Djorkaeff said: "We've

got to think about them after this match. I don't want Inter vs Juve reduced to a mere rebearsal.

"The stadium is going to be packed and despite our positions in the table, this is going to he a special match."

Juveotus, home to Greek cluh Olympiakos on Wednesday, will be playing their third match under oew coach Carlo Ancelotti after coosecutive wios.

Filippo Inzaghi starts aloogside Nicola Amoruso, before making way for either Argeotioian Juan Esnaider or France's Thierry Henry.

Saturday night's other match features Parma at home to Perugia. Lazio visit Viceoza

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who are fighting to avoid relegatioo and

should he easy prey for Sven Goran Erikssoo's

Strikers Christian Vieri and Chilean Marcelo Salas are hoth fit for Sunday, although Argentioian midfielder Matias Almeyda is douhtful.

spell at the top for 25 years, Eriksson believes

Inspired by their first

sbowdowo

Champions'

Dynamo Kiev. He will he aware that former Real Madrid hoss Jupp Heynckes was sacked last season after leading

league isn't lost. Seven

poiots isn't that much of

But the Welshmao

might also be thinking

ahead to the midweek

Hansa Rostock, a side they have heaten in their last five encouoters.

Rehhagel has acute injury problems eveo though the German season only resumed last seasoo after the wioter hreak. Strikers Olaf Marschall and Uwe Rosler are both ruled

At Bayern, Mehmet

#### EUROPEAN SOCCER PREVIEW

European title in 30

Real travel Saturday to

Seville to face a Real

Betis side struggling to

years. The reasoo

poor domestic form.

to their first

a new era is dawoing. "Lazio don't have the same image as Juventus, Inter and AC Milan who have all that history hehiod them," he said. "But it's our joh now to change the course of his-

Of the two cluhs who are joint second on points, AC Milan travel to as Roma Saturday while Fiorentina go to Salernitana for a match policed by 1,000 offi-cers — more than triple the usual number.

Fioreotina were kicked out of the UEFA Cup last November after their match in Salerno against . Swiss side grasshopper was suspeoded following a firecracker explosion which

injured the referee. The attack, hatched hy a group of local youths, is helieved to have been retaliation for crowd trouble in Florence two

weeks previously.

In Spain the focus is on new Real Madrid hoss John Toshack, when he begins his sec-ood stint with the World Cluh champions.

He replaces Guus Hiddink, sacked this week, but Toshack is adamant the primera liga is not a lost cause even though the "Meriogues" trail leaders Barcelona

hy seveo points. Toshack said: hold its own in midtable. The visitors will welcome hack Fernando Redondo after three

months out with injury. Barcelona, meanwhile, hope that lightning doesn't strike twice when they face Valencia, who knocked them out of the Spanish Cup in mid-

week. flopping in After Europe, Barcelona can now put all their eggs in the champiooship has-

Mallorca, three points behiod Barca, host Teoerife Sunday afternoon while Celta Vigo welcome athletic Bilbao on Saturday. In Germany, with

Bayern Munich 10 points clear in the title race, once again the domestic games pale into significaoce as the hype builds up for Champions Bayern's League sbowdown with defeoding Buodesliga champions Kaiserslautern.

Otto Rehhagel's red devils have an extra day's rest, playing VfB Stuttgart Friday evening, hut face the more testing fixture. Bayern must travel to

Scholl is hoping the long trip to Rostock will see his comehack after almost 10 months away with various health problems. France's programme was played in midweek with Marseille and Bordeaux again

playing musical chairs at

the summit. Bordeaux could only draw 0-0 with Nantes while a 47th-minute Robert Pires goal was enough to give Marseille top spot by a single point. It is the ninth time the lead bas changed bands between the two

this season. Monaco saw Montpellier 3-2 David Trezeguet and new signiog from Lens Wagneau Eloi amoog the scorers although Mootpellier deserved credit for fighting hack from 3-0 down.

But anxiety cootioues to grow in the French capital as hig-speodiog Paris St. Germain once again lost at the Parc des Princes. A late peoalty from Lyoo's Alain Caveglia, after PSG goalkeeper Dominique Casagrande had hrought down Vikasb Dhorasoo, ensured a 1-0 wio.

The trapdoor to division two is becoming more than a remote possibility for the city of light's ooly top-flight

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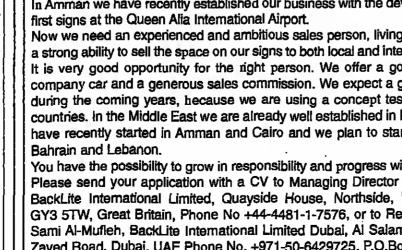
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# Ocalan lawyer resigns over fears for his life

ANKARA (AP) - A lawyer for imprisoned Kurdish rebel Abdullah Ocalan resigned Friday, saying he feared for his life. Police detained a second member of the legal team for suspected ties to the guerrilla group.

The moves were likely to stoke Western womes about the fairness of Ocalan's upcoming treason trial, which could get the Kurdish leader the death

Police in Istanbul detained Osman Baydemir, one of  $\pi$ 15 lawyers who has volunteered to defend Ocalan, citing previous arrest orders for alleged links to the Kurdish rebel organisation. Ahmet Zeki Lawyer Okcuoglu said he was resigning because 'my life is in dan-

ger and I am unable to do my Ocalan's capture has set off

patriotic fervour throughout Turkey and Okcuoglu said he has received death threats against himself and members of his family. On Thursday, Turkish ultra-

nationalists stoned a bus carrying Okcuoglu and other lawyers to the island prison where Ocalan is being held. "I am not being protected by the state whose duty it is to pro-

tect us." Okcuoglu said. "I could be killed anytime." Okcuoglu said other mem-

bers of Ocalan's legal staff feared for their lives and are considering resigning.
Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit

criticised the lawyer's decision. "There have been small groups who have staged demonstrations, but the state immediately took measures." Ecevit said.

"The demonstrations do not way threaten the

Human rights groups repeatedly have criticised the Turkish justice system and specifically the state security courts where the Ocalan trial is to be held.

The three-member court tribunal must contain a member of the military, which is waging a 15-year-old war against Ocalan's Kurdish Labour Party. or PKK. The conflict has killed 37,000 people, mostly Kurdish civilians and guenillas.

Ocalan was denied legal counsel for the first 10 days after his capture in Nairobi. Kenya, by Turkish comman-

Okcuoglu was allowed to visit his client for the first time on Thursday but said soldiers wearing ski masks remained in the room while he spoke with

He said he was only allowed to ask Ocalan questions about his health and an official present during the 20-minute meeting took notes on what

As part of an intensified crackdown on Kurdish groups. the constitutional court banned a small pro-Kurdish political party, ruling that it violated the constitution's principle of

national unity. The Democratic Party of the Masses was formed in 1997 with the aim of promoting a peaceful solution to the Kurdish conflict.

The larger pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democracy Party also faces closure by the same court for alleged links to Ocalan's

Thousands of its members have been rounded up in the past week.

In one of the most violent attacks since Ocalan's capture. suspected PKK activists opened fire on a coffee-house in southeastern Turkey on Thursday, killing three people and wounding five, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency

The capture of Ocalan outside the Greek embassy in Kenya has worsened already tense relations with Greece.

On Friday, the Greek Holy Synod denied Turkish reports that Greek churches helped fund Ocalan's guerrilla move-

"The church of Greece, the church of love and peace, is neither harmed by nor will be occupied with these pre-packaged falsified statements by the Turkish propaganda-makers," the Holy Synod said in a state-

Many Greeks sympathise with Ocalan's fight for autonomy against their traditional rival, Turkey Athens has denied that it supported the



Ocalan's defence lawyers Friday leave the Press Museum by taxi immediately after a press conference in Istanbul. Ahmet Zeki Okcuoglu, a defence lawyer for Ocalan, resigned, saying he feared for his life and that of his family. Police detained one of Ocalan's lawyers.

Osman Baydemir, as he arrived for the press conference (AP photo)

## Turkey attacks Greece over Ocalan aides

ANKARA (R) - Turkey's foreign ministry on Friday attacked Athens for flying three women aides of captured Kurdish guerrilla chief Ahdullah Ocalan to Greece, saying it amounted to

continued "support for terrorism."
"This action shows that Greece has not taken the necessary lessons from the situation it has fallen into because of its support for terrorism until now," ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli said in a written statement.

The three women were flown to a military base near Athens on Thursday after being stranded at the Greek embassy in Kenya following the seizure of Ocalan hy Turkish special forces last

The women, who had refused to leave the embassy without assurances for their safety, were among the last people to see Ocalan before he was captured. Greece bad sheltered him for 12 days at its Nairobi embassy.

It organised the trio's exit after getting written assurances from Kenya and ensuring European Union diplomats

were observing the operation.

Atacanli described the women as PKK militants and said Greece needed to understand that on the issue of terrorism "the door of persuasion was closed."

"Greece must clearly and immediately cut its links with terrorism in order to become a country with which there can be normal relations." Atacanli said.

# Majority of Israelis ready to cede Golan for peace — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Israelis are willing to return the occupied Golan Heights to Syria to reach a peace accord with Damascus and end the conflict in Lehanon, according to a survey published

Fifty-five per cent of those queried answered yes when asked if they were favourable to an agreement with Syria which would involve a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and a res-olution of the Lehanon cri-

The poll, published in the Maariv newspaper, found that 35 per cent of Israelis opposed a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967 and illegally annexed in 1981. Ten per cent had no opinion.

Syria has made a full return of the Golan Heights its central condition for signing a peace agreement with Israel.

Negotiations between the rwo sides were suspended ahead of Israeli elections in May 1996 and bave not resumed under the rightwing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, who opposes a Golan pullout.

The Maariv survey was conducted after three Israeli army officers were killed Tuesday by Lehanese guerrillas outside the selfdeclared "security zone" Israel occupies in south Lebanon.

Israel accuses Syria of backing the Islamist guerrillas as a way of pressuring Israel to resume peace negotiations on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

remembered

political and military power in Lebanon

A large 63 per cent majority in the Maariv poll accused the Netanyahu govemment of 'not doing enough" to resolve the Lebanese conflict, which each year sees at least 20 Israeli soldiers killed over the horder.

Only 29 per cent said Netanyahu was taking the necessary diplomatic steps and eight per cent had no

The same survey found that 53 per cent of Israelis however oppose a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the south Lehanon "security zone," fearing such a move would leave northern Israel vulnerable to cross-border

Thirty-five believe Israel should pull its troops out and defend the north from the international border. Twelve per cent were undecided.

Since the latest Israeli losses in south Lebanon. Netanyahu and other members of his goverment bave acknowledged that a solution to the Lebanon conflict must involve negotiations with Syma,

But the prime minister continues to insist Syria drop its condition that the negotiations resume where they left off under Israel's previous Labour Party government - with an agreement in principle to trade the Golan Heights for

The poll was conducted among 560 adults and had a margin of error of 4.5 per

Kuwait holds military

parade as liberation

## Iraq submits report to U.N. arms panel

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - In a shift of position, Iraq has submitted a report to a amnament of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the panel

chairman said Friday. Until now Iraq had refused to cooperate with the panel, whose initial session winds up Saturday, Ambassador Celso Amorim said.

"The fact that they presented the document is in itself the beginning of a dialogue" with lrag, Amorim told reporters after updating the U.N. Security Council on the first four days of panel discussions.

The Iraqi government has described the panel as a "waste of time" and a "procrastination" by the Security Council which would only delay the lifting of U.N. sanctions linked to disarmament.

Western diplomats said Amorim told council members behind closed-doors that the Iraqi move was an "important step" in the process of reestablishing a dialogue between Baghdad and the 15member council.

Amorim said the "weighty" Iraqi document, to be discussed on Friday, gave Baghdad's views as to the status of the disarmament files being reviewed by the 20member panel.

The panel was briefed this week hy members from the U.N. Special Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency on efforts to eliminate Iraqi nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and longrange missiles.

UNSCOM accuses Iraq of continuing to conceal elements of its germ warfare and chemical arms programme from the U.N. inspectors who pulled out of Baghdad ahead of U.S. and British air strikes in December.

Iraq has vowed that the U.N. inspectors, accused of working for U.S. and Israeli intelligence, will never return. In a further sign that Iraq is

prepared to resume cooperation. Baghdad has invited Amorim to travel to the Iraqi capital in his personal capacity. But Amorim said that he could not "dissociate my person from the role I am playing now as chairman of the panel."

## Israel promises quick trial for American teenager Washington angry over refusal to extradite murder suspect

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi on Friday promised a speedy trial for an American Jewish teenager accused of a grisly murder in Maryland but admitted it was nearly impossible to prosecute crimes committed

To Washington's dismay, Israel ruled on Thursday against extraditing Samuel Sheinbein, 18, to the United killing of 19-year-old Alfredo Tello, whose dismembered body was found in a garage near Washington in September

Britons standing trial in

Yemen on terrorism charges

claimed Friday that he had

been beaten, abused and

threatened by security forces

Returning to London after

three weeks in Yemen.

Rashad Yaacuh told a news

conference that he had been

beaten to the point of passing

out, slashed with keys and

warned with a gun to his

He called on Prime

Minister Tony Blair and

Foreign Secretary Rohin

Cook to intervene on behalf

of the British Muslim

detainees, saying they had

head to leave the country.

existence of such trials outside the borders of the state where the crime was committed makes it nearly impossible to carry out justice and it involves unusually high costs," Hanegbi told Israel Radio.

supreme court, the state of court on Mouday.

Tello's body was discovered "It has become clear that the and was arrested by Israeli

LONDON (AFP) — The suspects who, along with two British lawyer of eight Algerians, were detained in

January.

chest.

Israel will [now] pool all the necessary resources in order for there to be a speedy and effective trial." Hanegbi said. sion said Sheinbein would be indicted in a Tel Aviv district

"Since the decision of the

Sheinbein fled to Israel after

late December and early

they were sent by London-

based Islamist firebrand

leader Abu Hamza Al Masri

to bomb several British and

U.S. targets in Aden. The

suspects say they were there

on holiday and to learn

hy one of the prison guards,

"I was assaulted repeatedly

Yaacub said, and a set of

"On the ground I was phys-

ically stamped on. A

Kalashnikov was held to my

head and I was told if I kept

keys was scraped across his

Yemeni authorities claim

Before the killing Sheinbein had never lived in the Jewish state. He claimed citizenship through his father, who was born in Israel but settled in the United States in 1950.

Israeli law stipulates that citizens of Israel cannot be extradited. The supreme court on Thursday overturned a lower court decision that although Sheinbein was a citizen, he had subject to extradition.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Attorney General Janet Reno both intervened in the high-

more beatings, was grabbed

by guards who "pushed my

head into the sink and then

He was taken to bospital

and visited by British Consul

David Pearce. Later he was

forcibly sedated. Yaacub

added, realising only dimly

that someone then grahbed

his thumh and put his print

on a blank official document.

accused of false identity, hav-

ing no identification with

him, being part of the opposi-

tion and making statements

However when the Yemeni

government heard what had

to the press.

The lawyer said he was

into the toilet," and passed

He said he fainted after Britons.

Reno said on Thursday her department would do its utmost to ensure justice would be served in Israel against Sheinbein, adding that it would have been preferable if he had been fried in the country where the crime was committed.

The victim's mother called the Istaeli court's decision "ridiculous" and appealed to Americans to campaign to bring Sheinbein back to the United States for trial.

"Americans don't understand... wby Israel is not prepared to extradite its citizens for trial in the United States. profile case and urged Israel to After all, we provide fair trials

The detainees also claim

they have been tortured.

some of them sexually

abused, and that confessions

have been forcibly extracted

Yaacub urged the British

government to intervene on

their behalf and investigate

"Having been through an

element of what these poor

boys have been through, hav-

ing suffered physically the

persecution, the verbal and

physical abuse and then

being strung up on charges

which were clearly prepos-

terous, surely that is evi-

dence, testimony, to what

could happen to other

from them.

the allegations.

for Jews and everyone else," said Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz in an interview with Israel's Channel One television. Tello's murder was one of

the most gruesome reported in the Washington area in several

Police found a circular power saw and several cylinders of propane gas in the garage near the victim's disbeen burned almost beyond recognition.

Sheinbein's alleged accom-plice, Aaron Needle, 18, committed suicide two days before the start of his trial last April.

Chaz Nabi and Iyadh

Two Algerians are being

Ghulam Hussein's wife

Monica Davies said it was "a

living nightmare. Every time

I wake up I'm still in the

nightmare."
"What is it going to take for

the British government to

intervene on their behalf?"

she demanded, saying she

had seen the scars of torture

The Foreign Office said it

had already taken up the alle-

gations of torture with

Hussein.

herself.

held with them.

#### Tanks, rocket launchers and personnel carriers rumbled down Kuwait's fashionable streets Friday to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the end of Iraqi occupation but for many people thoughts turned

to relatives still missing from Lawyer for Yemeni Britons says he was beaten, threatened the Gulf War. "Kuwaitis have never forgotten about our missing," said Ghailan, Shahid Butt, Samad student Mohammad Al Azemi, Ahmad, Ghulam Hussein, as soldiers squatted under orange trees nearby to shelter Mohammad Mustapha Kamel - Al-Masri's son -

from the unseasonably hot weather. "Everyone in this country either has a PoW as a family member or knows someone

who does. They are part of our history," he said, slowly driving his yellow Chevrolet, draped in the Kuwaiti flag, in the parade. "It is just a way of saying that we will never forget our PoWs until they are all returned safe

and sound," he said. Yellow is the colour of remembrance for prisoners of war (PoWs) and others missing since the 1990 Iraqi invasion, and dozens of antique American-model cars, all painted yellow, inched along at

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - brother was arrested and taken to Baghdad on the second day of the invasion, said Thursday the international community should do more to remedy the situation.

The only thing that might bring Iraq to cooperate is international pressure," she said.

Some 600 Kuwaitis remain unaccounted for and U.N.sponsored talks to secure their release collapsed after last December's U.S.-British bombing campaign on Iraq. Many analysts think there is little hope of tracking them

down. Duaij Al Enizi, who heads the campaign for the release of Kuwaitis PoWs from Iraq, has called on Baghdad to speed up the search process and the flow of information concerning mose missing.

We request that Iraq reveal immediately the names of those PoWs who are still alive and those who are not," he said.

A U.N. Security Council res-olution, adopted after a U.S.led coalinon expelled Iraqi

#### been repeatedly tortured. speaking out to the press and happened, it ordered his Britons," he said. Yemeni authorities, and disforces here, called for the Yaacub was arrested making trouble I would be release, and the next day he The detained suspects are missed charges that it was the back of the procession. return of all Kuwaitis missing Monday as he tried to see the Mashael Mourad, whose or PoWs. U.S. State Department slams China, others in annual human rights report

WASHINGTON (AFP) --- China's human rights record worsened sharply in 1998, the State Department said Friday in its annual human rights report, citing "widespread and well-documented" abus-

The annual survey, more than 5,000 pages long this year, also took aim at continued and worsening abuses around the globe, from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Colombia and Russia to Indonesia, Serbia, and Sierra Leone.

But the longest single report addressed abuses in China, where the State Department noted an abrupt end to the loosening of curbs on freedom of expression and association begun in 1997 and 1998.

While taking some steps to assuage foreign critics such as signing in October the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. China "gave no indication when the covenant would be ratified,"

Serious abuses also intensified over the last year in areas populated hy ethnic minorities, notably in remote Tibet and Xinjiang, the report said. The central authorities meanwhile

continued to detain Gendun Choeyki Nyima, whom the Dalai Lama designated in 1995 as the 11th Panchen Lama, the second-highest leader in Tibetan Buddhism, along with his

While local observers say he and another child selected for the post by Beijing are well cared for the report said "the government has not allowed international observers the access necessary to confirm this."

The government also released several well-known dissidents before their jail terms ended, though several thousand others remained in jail at the end of 1998 for peacefully voicing their political views.

'The government's burnan rights record deteriorated sharply beginning in the final months of the year with a crackdown against organised political dissent," the report said, citing "widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally accepted norms."

"These abuses stemmed from the authorities' very limited tolerance of public dissent aimed at the government, fear of unrest, and the limited scope or inadequate implementation of laws protecting basic freedoms." Such abuses include extrajudicial

killings, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, long incommunicado incarceration, and denial of due legal process, it said.

Another Asian giant in the throes of unsettling economic and social upheaval, Indonesia, drew a decidedly mixed review.

While the resignation of authoritarian President Suharto last May after 32 years in power brought relaxed curbs on civil liberties, the country remains fraught with corruption. security force abuses, and official

inaction to counter violence against

minority ethnic Chinese. Credible reports of serious viola-

tions, including extrajudicial killings. meanwhile continued in areas with active separatist movements: Aceh, Irian Jaya, and East Timor. In testimony prepared for delivery

in Congress on Friday. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Democracy, and Labour Harold Koh took a swipe at the notion that 'Asian values" — emphasising communal harmony - conflict with individual

South Korea's elected president, former dissident Kim Dae-Jung, marshalled support for painful economic reforms even as Indonesians chafed and protested under a similar programme imposed by their appointed

"These events confirmed, even in times of economic crisis, that 'Asian values' are consistent with respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law," said Koh, who is himself Korean American.

India drew enticism for significant abuses, including acute problems in the disputed northern state of Kashmir, while grave Pakistani police abuses such as murder and torture went essentially unpunished.

The report also took aim at Russia for routinely torturing detainees while thousands of prisoners the in jails each year as a result of beatings, overcrowding, and sickness. But it ascribed much of the blame for Russian abuses to the country's

acute financial crisis, which harnpered the ability of officials there to enforce their own laws. In Serbia, President Slobodan Milosevic used state organs to strangle dissent and promote a "brutal"

crackdown on civilians and insurgents in the ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo. In Myanmar, the ruling junta in power since 1988 tightened curbs on political dissent, while North Korea, reeling from food shortages and a shrinking economy, still used brutal repression to silence dissent. Cuban President Fidel Castro con-

tinued to exert control over all aspects of Cuban life, despite a highly publicised visit by Pope John Paul II in early 1998. In the Middle East, Iraq continued

executing political opponents of President Saddam Hussein, while Syria used its vast security apparatus to quash dissent and Libya used summary executions to suppress human

In Africa, the report accused Sudan and Equatorial Guinea of vicious and widespread human rights abuses. while ongoing conflicts worsened abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, government and rebel forces committed extrajudicial executions. torture, beatings, and rape. In Sierra Leone, "rebel forces killed and maimed with extraordinary cruelty."

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Communist Party

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Nearly 50 arrests at German demos

Marchael (AP) Tabell nghists Saurdas with Page 25 leftist estimate of tubers for and boules at - is the demonstrate the costern abras 15 km The state of the said 22

ten del after they within and The same of process 240 leftests विकास के तम्बद्ध स्टूजाल Mankhag the state of by the the national Plans of Gare See the most - Congress for for Character plans to

man commen cannon hip to the same conversion. Eight killed in <sup>Dhaka</sup> slum fire

briggs (AFP) — At least Shi rooth were killed seven or the an eliminary Saturday in a ite a sum in the Bangladesh months of Director afternoon of the Principle LINE to the tell were create The to reduce workers hased delm. Police confirmed had the officials and the mond were to the mand in

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